PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 501 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
18 November 2009—4 December 2009

Chronology of The Parliamentary Debates

The Parliamentary History contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almons Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c. &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commenced with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

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House of Commons

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[Returned at the General Election, 5 May 2005]

A

Abbott, Diana Julie (Hackney, North and Stoke Newington)
Adams, Gerry (Belfast, West)
Afriyie, Adam (Windsor)
Ainger, Nicholas Richard (Carmarthen, West and South Pembrokeshire)
Ainsworth, Peter Michael (East Surrey)
Ainsworth, Rt. Hon. Robert William (Coventry, North-East)
Alexander, Daniel Grian (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)
Alexander, Douglas Garven (Paisley and Renfrewshire, South)
Allen, Graham William (Nottingham, North)
Amess, David Anthony Andrew (Southend, West)
Ancram, Rt. Hon. Michael Andrew (Devizes)
Anderson, David (Blaydon)
Anderson, Janet (Rossendale and Darwen)
Arbuthnot, Rt. Hon. James Norwich (North-East Hampshire)
Armstrong, Rt. Hon. Hilary Jane (North-West Durham)
Atkins, Charlotte Jean (Staffordshire, Moorlands)
Atkinson, Peter Landreth (Hexham)
Austin, Ian Christopher (Dudley, North)
Austin, John Eric (Erith and Thamesmead)

B

Bacon, Richard Michael (South Norfolk)
Bailey, Adrian Edward (West Bromwich, West)
Bain, William Thomas (Glasgow, North-East) [*By-election, November 2009*]
Baird, Vera (Redcar)
Baker, Norman John (Lewes)
Baldry, Antony Brian (Banbury)
Balls, Edward Michael (Normanton)
Banks, Gordon Raymond (Ochil and South Perthshire)
Barker, Gregory Leonard George (Bexhill and Battle)
Barlow, Celia Anne (Hove)
Baron, John Charles (Billericay)
Barrett, John Andrew (Edinburgh, West)
Barron, Rt. Hon. Kevin John (Rother Valley)
Battle, Rt. Hon. John Dominic (Leeds, West)
Bayley, Hugh (City of York)
Beckett, Rt. Hon. Margaret Mary (Derby, South)
Begg, Anne (Aberdeen, South)
Beith, Rt. Hon. Alan James (Berwick-upon-Tweed)
Bell, Sir Stuart (Middlesbrough)
Bellingham, Henry Campbell (North-West Norfolk)
Benn, Rt. Hon. Hilary James (Leeds, Central)
Benton, Joseph Edward (Bootle)
Benyon, Richard Henry Ronald (Newbury)
Bercow, John Simon (Buckingham)
Beresford, Sir Alexander Paul (Mole Valley)
Berry, Roger Leslie (Kingswood)
Betts, Clive James Charles (Sheffield, Attercliffe)
Binley, Brian Arthur Roland (Northampton, South)
Blackman, Elizabeth Marion (Erewash)
Blackman-Woods, Roberta Carol (City of Durham)
Blair, Rt. Hon. Anthony Charles Lynton (Sedgefield) [*Resigned, June 2007*]
Blears, Hazel Anne (Salford)
Blizzard, Robert John (Waveney)
Blunkett, Rt. Hon. David (Sheffield, Brightside)
Blunt, Crispin Jeremy Rupert (Reigate)
Bone, Peter William (Wellingborough)
Borrow, David Stanley (South Ribble)
Boswell, Timothy Eric (Daventry)
Bottomley, Peter James (Worthing, West)
Bradshaw, Benjamin Peter James (Exeter)
Brady, Graham Stuart (Altrincham and Sale, West)
Brake, Thomas Anthony (Carshalton and Wallington)
Brazier, Julian William Hendy (Canterbury)
Breed, Colin Edward (South-East Cornwall)
Brennan, Kevin Denis (Cardiff, West)
Brokenshire, James Peter (Hornchurch)
Brooke, Annette Lesley (Mid-Dorset and North Poole)
Brown, Lyn Carol (West Ham)
Brown, Rt. Hon. James Gordon (Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath)
Brown, Rt. Hon. Nicholas Hugh (Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend)
Brown, Russell Leslie (Dumfries and Galloway)
Browne, Desmond Henry (Kilmarnock and Loudon)
Browne, Jeremy Richard (Taunton)
Browning, Angela Frances (Tiverton and Honiton)
Bruce, Malcolm Gray (Gordon)
Bryant, Christopher John (Rhondda)
Buck, Karen Patricia (Regent's Park and Kensington, North)
Burden, Richard Haines (Birmingham, Northfield)
Burgon, Colin (Elmet)
Burnham, Andrew Murray (Leigh)
Burns, Simon Hugh McGuigan (West Chelmsford)
Burrowes, David John Barrington (Enfield, Southgate)
Burstow, Paul Kenneth (Sutton and Cheam)
Burt, Alistair James Hendrie (North-East Bedfordshire)
Burt, Lorely Jane (Solihull)
Butler, Dawn Petula (Brent, South)
Butterfill, Sir John Valentine (Bournemouth, West)
Byers, Rt. Hon. Stephen John (North Tyneside)
Byrne, Liam Dominic (Birmingham, Hodge Hill)

C

Cable, John Vincent (Twickenham)
Caborn, Rt. Hon. Richard George (Sheffield, Central)
Cairns, John David (Inverclyde)
Calton, Patsy (Cheadle) [*Died, May 2005*]
Cameron, David William Donald (Witney)
Campbell, Alan (Tynemouth)
Campbell, Gregory Lloyd (East Londonderry)
Campbell, Ronald (Blyth Valley)
Campbell, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Menzies (North-East Fife)
Carmichael, Alexander Morrison (Orkney and Shetland)
Carswell, John Douglas Wilson (Harwich)
Cash, William Nigel Paul (Stone)
Caton, Martin Phillip (Gower)
Cawsey, Ian Arthur (Brigg and Goole)

Challen, Colin Robert (Morley and Rothwell)
Chapman, James Keith (Wirral, South)
Chaytor, David Michael (Bury, North)
Chope, Christopher Robert (Christchurch)
Clapham, Michael (Barnsley, West and Penistone)
Clappison, William James (Hertsmere)
Clark, Gregory David (Tunbridge Wells)
Clark, Katy (North Ayrshire and Arran)
Clark, Paul Gordon (Gillingham)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Charles Rodway (Norwich, South)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Harry (Rushcliffe)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Thomas (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill)
Clegg, Nicholas William Peter (Sheffield, Hallam)
Clelland, David Gordon (Tyne Bridge)
Clifton-Brown, Geoffrey (Cotswold)
Clwyd, Rt. Hon. Ann (Cynon Valley)
Coaker, Vernon Rodney (Gedling)
Coffey, Ann (Stockport)
Cohen, Harry Michael (Leyton and Wanstead)
Connarty, Michael (Linlithgow and East Falkirk)
Conway, Derek Leslie (Old Bexley and Sidcup)
Cook, Francis (Stockton, North)
Cook, Rt. Hon. Robin (Livingston) [*Died, August 2005*]
Cooper, Rosemary Elizabeth (West Lancashire)
Cooper, Yvette (Pontefract and Castleford)
Corbyn, Jeremy Bernard (Islington, North)
Cormack, Sir Patrick Thomas (South Staffordshire) [*Delayed return, June 2005*]
Cousins, James MacKay (Newcastle upon Tyne, Central)
Cox, Charles Geoffrey (Torridge and West Devon)
Crabb, Stephen (Preseli Pembrokeshire)
Crausby, David Anthony (Bolton, North-East)
Creagh, Mary Helen (Wakefield)
Cruddas, Jonathon (Dagenham)
Cryer, Constance Ann (Keighley)
Cummings, John Scott (Easington)
Cunningham, James Dolan (Coventry, South)
Cunningham, Thomas Anthony (Workington)
Curry, Rt. Hon. David Maurice (Skipton and Ripon)
Curtis-Thomas, Claire (Crosby)

D

Darling, Rt. Hon. Alistair Maclean (Edinburgh, South-West)
Davey, Edward Jonathon (Kingston and Surbiton)
David, Wayne (Caerphilly)
Davidson, Ian Graham (Glasgow, South-West)
Davies, David Clifford (Blaenau Gwent) [*By-election, July 2006*]
Davies, David Thomas Charles (Monmouth)
Davies, John Quentin (Grantham and Stamford)
Davies, Philip Andrew (Shipley)
Davis, Rt. Hon. David Michael (Haltemprice and Howden) [*Resigned, June 2008; returned at by-election, July 2008*]
Dean, Janet Elizabeth Ann (Burton)
Denham, Rt. Hon. John Yorke (Southampton, Itchen)
Devine, James (Livingston) [*By-election, October 2005*]
Dhanda, Parmjit Singh (Gloucester)
Dismore, Andrew Hartley (Hendon)
Djanogly, Jonathan Simon (Huntingdon)
Dobbin, James (Heywood and Middleton)
Dobson, Rt. Hon. Frank Gordon (Holborn and St. Pancras)
Dodds, Nigel Alexander (Belfast, North)
Doherty, Pat (West Tyrone)
Donaldson, Jeffrey Mark (Lagan Valley)
Donohoe, Brian Harold (Central Ayrshire)
Doran, Frank (Aberdeen, North)
Dorrell, Rt. Hon. Stephen James (Charnwood)
Dorries, Nadine Vanessa (Mid-Bedfordshire)
Dowd, James Patrick (Lewisham, West)
Drew, David Elliott (Stroud)
Duddridge, James Philip (Rochford and Southend, East)
Duncan, Alan James Carter (Rutland and Melton)
Duncan Smith, Rt. Hon. George Iain (Chingford and Woodford Green)
Dunne, Philip Martin (Ludlow)
Dunwoody, Gwyneth Patricia (Crewe and Nantwich) [*Died, April 2008*]
Durkan, John Mark (Foyle)

E

Eagle, Angela (Wallasey)
Eagle, Maria (Liverpool, Garston)
Efford, Clive Stanley (Eltham)
Ellman, Louise Joyce (Liverpool, Riverside)
Ellwood, Tobias Martin (Bournemouth, East)
Engel, Natascha (North-East Derbyshire)
Ennis, Jeffrey (Barnsley, East and Mexborough)
Etherington, William (Sunderland, North)
Evans, Nigel Martin (Ribble Valley)
Evennett, David Anthony (Bexleyheath and Crayford)

F

Fabricant, Michael Louis David (Lichfield)
Fallon, Michael Cathel (Sevenoaks)
Farrelly, Christopher Paul (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Farron, Timothy James (Westmorland and Lonsdale)
Featherstone, Lynne Choona (Hornsey and Wood Green)
Field, Rt. Hon. Frank (Birkenhead)
Field, Mark Christopher (Cities of London and Westminster)
Fisher, Mark (Stoke-on-Trent, Central)
Fitzpatrick, James (Poplar and Canning Town)
Flello, Robert Charles Douglas (Stoke-on-Trent, South)
Flint, Caroline Louise (Don Valley)
Flynn, Paul Phillip (Newport West)
Follett, Daphne Barbara (Stevenage)
Forth, Rt. Hon. Eric (Bromley and Chislehurst) [*Died, May 2006*]
Foster, Donald Michael Ellison (Bath)
Foster, Michael Jabez (Hastings and Rye)
Foster, Michael John (Worcester)
Fox, Liam (Woodspring)
Francis, David Hywel (Aberavon)
Francois, Mark Gino (Rayleigh)
Fraser, Christopher James (South-West Norfolk)

G

Gale, Roger James (North Thanet)
Galloway, George (Bethnal Green and Bow)
Gapes, Michael John (Ilford, South)
Gardiner, Barry Strachan (Brent, North)
Garnier, Edward Henry (Harborough)
Gauke, David Michael (South-West Hertfordshire)
George, Andrew Henry (St. Ives)
George, Rt. Hon. Bruce Thomas (Walsall, South)
Gerrard, Neil Francis (Walthamstow)
Gibb, Nicolas John (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton)
Gibson, Ian (Norwich, North) [*Resigned, June 2009*]
Gidley, Sandra Julia (Romsey)

Gildernew, Michelle (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Gillan, Cheryl Elise Kendall (Chesham and Amersham)
Gilroy, Linda (Plymouth, Sutton)
Godsiff, Roger Duncan (Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath)
Goggins, Paul Gerard (Wythenshawe and Sale, East)
Goldsworthy, Julia Anne (Falmouth and Camborne)
Goodman, Helen Catherine (Bishop Auckland)
Goodman, Paul Alexander Cyril (Wycombe)
Goodwill, Robert (Scarborough and Whitby)
Gove, Michael Andrew (Surrey Heath)
Gray, James Whiteside (North Wiltshire)
Grayling, Christopher Stephen (Epsom and Ewell)
Green, Damian Howard (Ashford)
Greening, Justine (Putney)
Greenway, John Robert (Ryedale)
Grieve, Dominic Charles Roberts (Beaconsfield)
Griffith, Nia Rhiannon (Llanelli)
Griffiths, Nigel (Edinburgh, South)
Grogan, John Timothy (Selby)
Gummer, Rt. Hon. John Selwyn (Suffolk Coastal)
Gwynne, Andrew John (Denton and Reddish)

H

Hague, Rt. Hon. William Jefferson (Richmond, Yorks)
Hain, Rt. Hon. Peter Gerald (Neath)
Hall, Michael Thomas (Weaver Vale)
Hall, Patrick (Bedford)
Hamilton, David (Midlothian)
Hamilton, Fabian (Leeds, North-East)
Hammond, Philip (Runnymede and Weybridge)
Hammond, Stephen William (Wimbledon)
Hancock, Michael Thomas (Portsmouth, South)
Hands, Gregory William (Hammersmith and Fulham)
Hanson, David George (Delyn)
Harman, Rt. Hon. Harriet (Camberwell and Peckham)
Harper, Mark James (Forest of Dean)
Harris, Evan Leslie (Oxford, West and Abingdon)
Harris, Tom (Glasgow, South)
Harvey, Nicholas Barton (North Devon)
Haselhurst, Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Gordon Barraclough (Saffron Walden)
Havard, David Stewart (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney)
Hayes, John Henry (South Holland and The Deepings)
Heal, Sylvia Lloyd (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)
Heald, Oliver (North-East Hertfordshire)
Healey, John (Wentworth)
Heath, David William St. John (Somerton and Frome)
Heathcoat-Amory, Rt. Hon. David Philip (Wells)
Hemming, John Alexander Melvin (Birmingham, Yardley)
Henderson, Douglas John (Newcastle upon Tyne, North)
Hendrick, Mark Phillip (Preston)
Hendry, Charles (Wealden)
Hepburn, Stephen (Jarrow)
Heppell, John (Nottingham, East)
Herbert, Nicholas Le Quesne (Arundel and South Downs)
Hermon, Lady Sylvia Eileen (North Down)
Hesford, Stephen (Wirral, West)
Hewitt, Rt. Hon. Patricia Hope (Leicester, West)
Heyes, David Alan (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Hill, Rt. Hon. Keith (Streatham)
Hillier, Meg (Hackney, South and Shoreditch)
Hoban, Mark Gerard (Fareham)
Hodge, Rt. Hon. Margaret Eve (Barking)
Hodgson, Sharon (Gateshead, East and Washington, West)
Hoey, Catharine Letitia (Vauxhall)
Hogg, Rt. Hon. Douglas Martin (Sleaford and North Hykeham)
Hollobone, Philip Thomas (Kettering)
Holloway, Adam James Harold (Gravesham)
Holmes, Paul Robert (Chesterfield)
Hood, James (Lanark and Hamilton, East)
Hoon, Rt. Hon. Geoffrey William (Ashfield)
Hope, Philip Ian (Corby)
Hopkins, Kelvin Peter (Luton, North)
Horam, John Rhodes (Orpington)
Horwood, Martin Charles (Cheltenham)
Hosie, Stewart (Dundee, East)
Howard, Rt. Hon. Michael (Folkestone and Hythe)
Howarth, David Ross (Cambridge)
Howarth, George Edward (Knowsley, North and Sefton, East)
Howarth, James Gerald Douglas (Aldershot)
Howell, John Michael (Henley) [*By-election, June 2008*]
Howells, Kim Scott (Pontypridd)
Hoyle, Lindsay Harvey (Chorley)
Hughes, Rt. Hon. Beverley June (Stretford and Urmston)
Hughes, Simon Henry Ward (North Southwark and Bermondsey)
Huhne, Christopher Murray Paul (Eastleigh)
Humble, Jovanka Joan (Blackpool, North and Fleetwood)
Hunt, Jeremy (South-West Surrey)
Hunter, Mark James (Cheadle) [*By-election, July 2005*]
Hurd, Nicholas Richard (Ruislip-Northwood)
Hutton, Rt. Hon. John Matthew Patrick (Barrow and Furness)

I

Iddon, Brian (Bolton, South-East)
Illsley, Eric Evlyn (Barnsley, Central)
Ingram, Rt. Hon. Adam (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow)
Irranca-Davies, Ifor Huw (Ogmore)

J

Jack, Rt. Hon. John Michael (Fylde)
Jackson, Glenda May (Hampstead and Highgate)
Jackson, Stewart James (Peterborough)
James, Siân Catherine (Swansea, East)
Jenkin, Bernard Christison (North Essex)
Jenkins, Brian David (Tamworth)
Johnson, Rt. Hon. Alan Arthur (Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle)
Johnson, Alexander Boris (Henley) [*Resigned, June 2008*]
Johnson, Diana Ruth (Kingston upon Hull, North)
Jones, David Ian (Clwyd, West)
Jones, Helen Mary (Warrington, North)
Jones, Kevan David (North Durham)
Jones, Lynne Mary (Birmingham, Selly Oak)
Jones, Martyn David (Clwyd, South)
Jowell, Rt. Hon. Tessa Jane (Dulwich and West Norwood)
Joyce, Eric (Falkirk)

K

Kaufman, Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Bernard (Manchester, Gorton)
Kawczynski, Daniel Robert (Shrewsbury and Atcham)
Keeble, Sally Curtis (Northampton, North)

Keeley, Barbara Mary (Worsley)
Keen, Alan (Feltham and Heston)
Keen, Ann Lloyd (Brentford and Isleworth)
Keetch, Paul Stuart (Hereford)
Kelly, Rt. Hon. Ruth Maria (Bolton, West)
Kemp, Fraser (Houghton and Washington, East)
Kennedy, Rt. Hon. Charles Peter (Ross, Skye and Lochaber)
Kennedy, Rt. Hon. Jane Elizabeth (Liverpool, Wavertree)
Key, Simon Robert (Salisbury)
Khabra, Piara Singh (Ealing, Southall) [*Died, June 2007*]
Khan, Sadiq Aman (Tooting)
Kidney, David Neil (Stafford)
Kilfoyle, Peter (Liverpool, Walton)
Kirkbride, Julie (Bromsgrove)
Knight, Rt. Hon. Gregory (East Yorkshire)
Knight, Jim (South Dorset)
Kramer, Susan Veronica (Richmond Park)
Kumar, Ashok (Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland)

L

Ladyman, Stephen John (South Thanet)
Laing, Eleanor Fulton (Epping Forest)
Lait, Jacqueline Anne Harkness (Beckenham)
Lamb, Norman Peter (North Norfolk)
Lammy, David Lindon (Tottenham)
Lancaster, John Mark (North-East Milton Keynes)
Lansley, Andrew David (South Cambridgeshire)
Law, Peter John (Blaenau Gwent) [*Died, April 2006*]
Laws, David Anthony (Yeovil)
Laxton, Robert (Derby, North)
Lazarowicz, Marek Jerzy (Edinburgh, North and Leith)
Leech, John (Manchester, Withington)
Leigh, Edward Julian Egerton (Gainsborough)
Lepper, David (Brighton, Pavilion)
Letwin, Rt. Hon. Oliver (West Dorset)
Levitt, Tom (High Peak)
Lewis, Ivan (Bury, South)
Lewis, Julian Murray (New Forest, East)
Liddell-Grainger, Ian Richard (Bridgwater)
Lidington, David Roy (Aylesbury)
Lilley, Rt. Hon. Peter Bruce (Hitchin and Harpenden)
Linton, Martin (Battersea)
Lloyd, Anthony Joseph (Manchester, Central)
Llwyd, Elfyn (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy)
Lord, Sir Michael Nicholson (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich)
Loughton, Timothy Paul (East Worthing and Shoreham)
Love, Andrew Mcculloch (Edmonton)
Lucas, Ian Colin (Wrexham)
Luff, Peter James (Mid-Worcestershire)

M

McAvoy, Rt. Hon. Thomas McLaughlin (Rutherglen and Hamilton, West)
McCabe, Stephen James (Birmingham, Hall Green)
McCafferty, Christine (Calder Valley)
McCarthy, Kerry (Bristol, East)
McCarthy-Fry, Sarah Louise (Portsmouth, North)
McCartney, Rt. Hon. Ian (Makerfield)
McCrea, The Reverend Robert Thomas William (South Antrim)
McDonagh, Siobhain Ann (Mitcham and Morden)
McDonnell, Alasdair (Belfast, South)
McDonnell, John Martin (Hayes and Harlington)
MacDougall, John William (Glenrothes) [*Died, August 2008*]
McFadden, Patrick Bosco (Wolverhampton, South-East)
McFall, Rt. Hon. John (West Dunbartonshire)
McGovern, James (Dundee, West)
McGrady, Eddie (South Down)
McGuinness, Martin (Mid-Ulster)
McGuire, Anne (Stirling)
McIntosh, Anne Caroline Ballingall (Vale of York)
McIsaac, Shona (Cleethorpes)
Mackay, Rt. Hon. Andrew James (Bracknell)
McKechin, Ann (Glasgow, North)
McKenna, Rosemary (Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, East)
Mackinlay, Andrew (Thurrock)
Maclean, Rt. Hon. David John (Penrith and The Border)
McLoughlin, Patrick Allen (West Derbyshire)
MacNeil, Angus Brendan (Na h-Eileanan an Iar)
McNulty, Anthony James (Harrow, East)
MacShane, Denis (Rotherham)
Mactaggart, Fiona Margaret (Slough)
Mahmood, Khalid (Birmingham, Perry Barr)
Main, Anne Margaret (St. Albans)
Malik, Shahid (Dewsbury)
Malins, Humfrey Jonathan (Woking)
Mallaber, Judy (Amber Valley)
Mann, John (Bassetlaw)
Maples, John Cradock (Stratford-on-Avon)
Marris, Robert Howard (Wolverhampton, South-West)
Marsden, Gordon (Blackpool, South)
Marshall, David (Glasgow, East) [*Resigned, June 2008*]
Marshall-Andrews, Robert Graham (Medway)
Martin, Rt. Hon. Michael John (Glasgow, North-East) [*Resigned, June 2009*]
Martlew, Eric Anthony (Carlisle)
Mason, John Fingland (Glasgow, East) [*By-election, July 2008*]
Mates, Rt. Hon. Michael John (East Hampshire)
Maude, Rt. Hon. Francis Anthony Aylmer (Horsham)
May, Rt. Hon. Theresa Mary (Maidenhead)
Meacher, Rt. Hon. Michael Hugh (Oldham, West and Royton)
Meale, Joseph Alan (Mansfield)
Mercer, Patrick John (Newark)
Merron, Gillian Joanna (Lincoln)
Michael, Rt. Hon. Alun Edward (Cardiff, South and Penarth)
Milburn, Rt. Hon. Alan (Darlington)
Miliband, David Wright (South Shields)
Miliband, Edward Samuel (Doncaster, North)
Miller, Andrew Peter (Ellesmere Port and Neston)
Miller, Maria Frances Lewis (Basingstoke)
Milton, Anne Frances (Guildford)
Mitchell, Andrew John Bower (Sutton Coldfield)
Mitchell, Austin Vernon (Great Grimsby)
Moffatt, Laura Jean (Crawley)
Mole, Christopher David (Ipswich)
Moon, Madeleine (Bridgend)
Moore, Michael Kevin (Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk)
Moran, Margaret (Luton, South)
Morden, Jessica Elizabeth (Newport, East)
Morgan, Julie (Cardiff, North)
Morley, Elliot Anthony (Scunthorpe)
Moss, Malcolm Douglas (North-East Cambridgeshire)
Mountford, Kali Carol Jean (Colne Valley)
Mudie, George Edward (Leeds, East)
Mulholland, Gregory Thomas (Leeds, North-West)
Mullin, Christopher John (Sunderland, South)

Mundell, David Gordon (Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale)
Munn, Margaret Patricia (Sheffield, Heeley)
Murphy, Conor Terence (Newry and Armagh)
Murphy, Denis (Wansbeck)
Murphy, Jim (East Renfrewshire)
Murphy, Rt. Hon. Paul Peter (Torfaen)
Murrison, Andrew William (Westbury)

N

Naysmith, John Douglas (Bristol, North-West)
Neill, Robert (Bromley and Chislehurst) [*By-election, July 2006*]
Newmark, Brooks (Braintree)
Norris, Dan (Wansdyke)

O

O'Brien, Michael (North Warwickshire)
O'Brien, Stephen Rothwell (Eddisbury)
O'Hara, Edward (Knowsley, South)
Oaten, Mark (Winchester)
Olner, William John (Nuneaton)
Öpik, Lembit (Montgomeryshire)
Osborne, George Gideon Oliver (Tatton)
Osborne, Sandra (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)
Ottaway, Richard Geoffrey James (Croydon, South)
Owen, Albert (Ynys Môn)

P

Paice, James Edward Thornton (South-East Cambridgeshire)
Paisley, The Reverend Ian Richard Kyle (North Antrim)
Palmer, Nicholas Douglas (Broxtowe)
Paterson, Owen William (North Shropshire)
Pearson, Ian Phares (Dudley, South)
Pelling, Andrew John (Croydon, Central)
Penning, Michael Alan (Hemel Hempstead)
Penrose, John David (Weston-Super-Mare)
Picking, Anne (East Lothian)
Pickles, Eric Jack (Brentwood and Ongar)
Plaskitt, James Andrew (Warwick and Leamington)
Pope, Gregory James (Hyndburn)
Pound, Stephen Pelham (Ealing, North)
Prentice, Bridget Theresa (Lewisham, East)
Prentice, Gordon (Pendle)
Prescott, Rt. Hon. John Leslie (Kingston upon Hull, East)
Price, Adam (Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr)
Primarolo, Rt. Hon. Dawn (Bristol, South)
Prisk, Mark (Hertford and Stortford)
Pritchard, Mark Andrew (The Wrekin)
Prosser, Gwynfor Mathews (Dover)
Pugh, John David (Southport)
Purchase, Kenneth (Wolverhampton, North-East)
Purnell, James Mark Dakin (Stalybridge and Hyde)

R

Rammell, William Ernest (Harlow)
Randall, Alexander John (Uxbridge)
Raynsford, Rt. Hon. Wyvill Richard Nicolls (Greenwich and Woolwich)
Redwood, Rt. Hon. John Alan (Wokingham)
Reed, Andrew John (Loughborough)
Reed, Jamieson Ronald (Copeland)
Reid, Alan (Argyll and Bute)
Reid, Rt. Hon. John (Airdrie and Shotts)
Rennie, Willie (Dunfermline and West Fife) [*By-election, February 2006*]
Rifkind, Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Leslie (Kensington and Chelsea)
Riordan, Linda (Halifax)
Robathan, Andrew Robert George (Blaby)
Robertson, Angus (Moray)
Robertson, Hugh Michael (Faversham and Mid Kent)
Robertson, John (Glasgow, North-West)
Robertson, Laurence Anthony (Tewkesbury)
Robinson, Geoffrey (Coventry, North-West)
Robinson, Iris (Strangford)
Robinson, Peter David (Belfast, East)
Rogerson, Daniel John (North Cornwall)
Rooney, Terrence Henry (Bradford, North)
Rosindell, Andrew Richard (Romford)
Rowen, Paul John (Rochdale)
Roy, Frank (Motherwell and Wishaw)
Roy, Lindsay (Glenrothes) [*By-election, November 2008*]
Ruane, Christopher Shaun (Vale of Clwyd)
Ruddock, Joan Mary (Lewisham, Deptford)
Ruffley, David Laurie (Bury St. Edmunds)
Russell, Christine Margaret (City of Chester)
Russell, Robert Edward (Colchester)
Ryan, Joan Marie (Enfield, North)

S

Salmond, Alex Elliot Anderson (Banff and Buchan)
Salter, Martin John (Reading, West)
Sanders, Adrian Mark (Torbay)
Sarwar, Mohammad (Glasgow, Central)
Scott, Lee (Ilford, North)
Seabeck, Alison Jane (Plymouth, Devonport)
Selous, Andrew Edmund Armstrong (South-West Bedfordshire)
Shapps, Grant V (Welwyn Hatfield)
Sharma, Virendra Kumar (Ealing, Southall) [*By-election, July 2007*]
Shaw, Jonathan Rowland (Chatham and Aylesford)
Sheerman, Barry John (Huddersfield)
Shepherd, Richard Charles Scrimgeour (Aldridge-Brownhills)
Sheridan, James (Paisley and Renfrewshire, North)
Short, Rt. Hon. Clare (Birmingham, Ladywood)
Simmonds, Mark Jonathan Mortlock (Boston and Skegness)
Simon, Siôn Llewelyn (Birmingham, Erdington)
Simpson, Alan John (Nottingham, South)
Simpson, David (Upper Bann)
Simpson, Keith Robert (Mid-Norfolk)
Singh, Marsha (Bradford, West)
Skinner, Dennis Edward (Bolsover)
Slaughter, Andrew Francis (Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush)
Smith, Rt. Hon. Andrew David (Oxford, East)
Smith, Angela Christine (Sheffield, Hillsborough)
Smith, Angela Evans (Basildon)
Smith, Chloe Rebecca (Norwich, North) [*By-election, July 2009*]
Smith, Geraldine (Morecambe and Lunesdale)
Smith, Rt. Hon. Jacqueline Jill (Redditch)
Smith, John William Patrick (Vale of Glamorgan)
Smith, Sir Robert (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine)
Snelgrove, Anne Christine (South Swindon)
Soames, Arthur Nicholas Winston (Mid-Sussex)
Soulsby, Sir Peter Alfred (Leicester, South)
Southworth, Helen Mary (Warrington, South)

Spellar, Rt. Hon. John Francis (Warley)
Spelman, Caroline Alice (Meriden)
Spicer, Sir Michael William Hardy (West Worcestershire)
Spink, Robert Michael (Castle Point)
Spring, Richard John Grenville (West Suffolk)
Squire, Rachel Anne (Dunfermline and West Fife) [*Died, January 2006*]
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Sir John Paul (Tonbridge and Malling)
Starkey, Phyllis Margaret (Milton Keynes, South-West)
Steen, Anthony David (Totnes)
Stewart, Ian (Eccles)
Stoate, Howard Geoffrey Alvan (Dartford)
Strang, Rt. Hon. Gavin Steel (Edinburgh, East)
Straw, Rt. Hon. John Whitaker (Blackburn)
Streeter, Gary Nicholas (South-West Devon)
Stringer, Graham Eric (Manchester, Blackley)
Stuart, Gisela Gschaider (Birmingham, Edgbaston)
Stuart, Graham Charles (Beverley and Holderness)
Stunell, Andrew (Hazel Grove)
Sutcliffe, Gerald (Bradford, South)
Swayne, Desmond Angus (New Forest, West)
Swinson, Jo (East Dunbartonshire)
Swire, Hugo (East Devon)
Syms, Robert Andrew Raymond (Poole)

T

Tami, Mark Richard (Alyn and Deeside)
Tapsell, Sir Peter Hannay Bailey (Louth and Horncastle)
Taylor, Dari Jean (Stockton, South)
Taylor, David Leslie (North-West Leicestershire)
Taylor, Ian Colin (Esher and Walton)
Taylor, Matthew Owen John (Truro and St. Austell)
Taylor, Richard Thomas (Wyre Forest)
Teather, Sarah Louise (Brent, East)
Thomas, Gareth Richard (Harrow, West)
Thornberry, Emily (Islington, South and Finsbury)
Thurso, Viscount John Archibald (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross)
Timms, Stephen Creswell (East Ham)
Timpson, Edward (Crewe and Nantwich) [*By-election, May 2008*]
Tipping, Simon Patrick (Sherwood)
Todd, Mark Wainwright (South Derbyshire)
Touhig, James Donnelly (Islwyn)
Tredinnick, David Arthur Stephen (Bosworth)
Trickett, Jon Hedley (Hemsworth)
Truswell, Paul Anthony (Pudsey)
Turner, Andrew John (Isle of Wight)
Turner, Desmond Stanley (Brighton, Kemptown)
Turner, Neil (Wigan)
Twigg, John Derek (Halton)
Tyrie, Andrew Guy (Chichester)

U

Ussher, Kitty (Burnley)

V

Vaizey, Edward Henry Butler (Wantage)
Vara, Shailesh Lakhman (North-West Cambridgeshire)
Vaz, Keith (Leicester, East)
Viggers, Peter John (Gosport)
Villiers, Theresa Anne (Chipping Barnet)
Vis, Rudolf Jan (Finchley and Golders Green)

W

Walker, Charles Ashley Rupert (Broxbourne)
Wallace, Robert Ben Lobban (Lancaster and Wyre)
Walley, Joan Lorraine (Stoke-on-Trent, North)
Walter, Robert John (North Dorset)
Waltho, Lynda Ellen (Stourbridge)
Ward, Claire Margaret (Watford)
Wareing, Robert Nelson (Liverpool, West Derby)
Waterson, Nigel Christopher (Eastbourne)
Watkinson, Angela Eileen (Upminster)
Watson, Thomas Anthony (West Bromwich, East)
Watts, David Leonard (St Helens, North)
Webb, Steven John (Northavon)
Weir, Michael Fraser (Angus)
Whitehead, Alan Patrick Vincent (Southampton, Test)
Whittingdale, John Flasby Lawrance (Maldon and East Chelmsford)
Wicks, Malcolm Hunt (Croydon, North)
Widdecombe, Rt. Hon. Ann Noreen (Maidstone and The Weald)
Wiggin, William David (Leominster)
Willetts, David Lindsay (Havant)
Williams, Rt. Hon. Alan John (Swansea, West)
Williams, Betty Helena (Conwy)
Williams, Hywel (Caernarfon)
Williams, Mark Fraser (Ceredigion)
Williams, Roger Hugh (Brecon and Radnorshire)
Williams, Stephen Roy (Bristol, West)
Willis, George Philip (Harrogate and Knaresborough)
Willott, Jennifer Nancy (Cardiff, Central)
Wills, Michael David (North Swindon)
Wilshire, David (Spelthorne)
Wilson, Philip (Sedgefield) [*By-election, July 2007*]
Wilson, Robert (Reading, East)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)
Winnick, David Julian (Walsall, North)
Winterton, Lady Jane Ann (Congleton)
Winterton, Sir Nicholas Raymond (Macclesfield)
Winterton, Rosalie (Doncaster, Central)
Wishart, Peter (Perth and North Perthshire)
Wood, Mike (Batley and Spen)
Woodward, Shaun Anthony (St. Helens, South)
Woolas, Phillip James (Oldham, East and Saddleworth)
Wright, Anthony David (Great Yarmouth)
Wright, Anthony Wayland (Cannock Chase)
Wright, David (Telford)
Wright, Iain David (Hartlepool)
Wright, Jeremy Paul (Rugby and Kenilworth)
Wyatt, Derek Murray (Sittingbourne and Sheppey)

Y

Yeo, Timothy Stephen Kenneth (South Suffolk)
Young, Rt. Hon. Sir George Samuel Knatchbull (North-West Hampshire)
Younger-Ross, Richard (Teignbridge)

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Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt. Hon. John Denham, MP
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families—The Rt. Hon. Ed Balls, MP
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change—The Rt. Hon. Edward Miliband, MP
Secretary of State for Health—The Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland—The Rt. Hon. Shaun Woodward, MP
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Secretary of State for Defence—The Rt. Hon. Bob Ainsworth, MP
Secretary of State for Transport—The Rt. Hon. Lord Adonis
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport—The Rt. Hon. Ben Bradshaw, MP

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Business, Innovation and Skills—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Lord Mandelson §
Ministers of State—
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    Minister for Science and Innovation—The Rt. Hon. Lord Drayson §
    Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination—The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)* §
    Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business—The Lord Davies of Abersoch, CBE §
    Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property—The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP
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    Ian Lucas, MP

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Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General—The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)*
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Parliamentary Secretary—Dawn Butler, MP

Children, Schools and Families—

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    Minister for Schools and Learners—Vernon Coaker, MP
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  Shahid Malik, MP
  Ian Austin, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)*
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  Siôn Simon, MP

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  The Rt. Hon. Lord Drayson §
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  Quentin Davies, MP
  Kevan Jones, MP

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Energy and Climate Change—

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  Joan Ruddock, MP
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  David Kidney, MP

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MINISTER OF STATE—
  Jim Fitzpatrick, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
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  Dan Norris, MP
  The Rt. Hon. Lord Davies of Oldham §

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  Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business—The Lord Davies of Abersoch, CBE §
  Ivan Lewis, MP
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  Minister for Europe—Chris Bryant, MP
  The Rt. Hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton §

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  Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)*
  Gillian Merron, MP
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  Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism—The Rt. Hon. David Hanson, MP
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  Meg Hillier, MP
  Alan Campbell, MP
  The Lord Brett §

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MINISTER OF STATE—Gareth Thomas, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
  Michael Foster, MP *(Worcester)*

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SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP
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  Maria Eagle, MP §
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  The Lord Bach
  Claire Ward, MP

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SOLICITOR-GENERAL—Vera Baird, QC, MP
ADVOCATE-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—The Lord Davidson of Glen Clova, QC

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LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, LORD PRIVY SEAL AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITY—The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP §
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  Barbara Keeley, MP

Northern Ireland—

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MINISTER OF STATE—
  The Rt. Hon. Paul Goggins, MP

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Scotland Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Jim Murphy, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
  Ann McKechin, MP

Transport—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Lord Adonis
MINISTER OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Sadiq Khan, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Paul Clark, MP
  Chris Mole, MP

Treasury—

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CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP
CHIEF SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Liam Byrne, MP
FINANCIAL SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, MP §
MINISTER OF STATE—Phil Woolas, MP (Minister for the North West)* §
ECONOMIC SECRETARY—Ian Pearson, MP
EXCHEQUER SECRETARY—Sarah McCarthy-Fry, MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)*
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECRETARY—The Lord Myners, CBE

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Frank Roy, MP
Steve McCabe, MP
Dave Watts, MP
Tony Cunningham, MP
Bob Blizzard, MP

ASSISTANT WHIPS—
Mark Tami, MP
George Mudie, MP
John Heppell, MP
Lyn Brown, MP
Mary Creagh, MP
Sharon Hodgson, MP
Kerry McCarthy, MP
David Wright, MP

Wales Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Wayne David, MP

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Work and Pensions—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform—The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)*
Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society—Angela Eagle, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)*
Helen Goodman, MP
The Lord McKenzie of Luton §

Her Majesty's Household—

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt. Hon. Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Earl of Dalhousie

MASTER OF THE HORSE—The Rt. Hon. Lord Vestey, KCVO

TREASURER—The Rt. Hon. Thomas McAvoy, MP

COMPTROLLER—The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—Helen Jones, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMEN-AT-ARMS—The Lord Bassam of Brighton

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD—The Rt. Hon. Lord Davies of Oldham §

LORDS IN WAITING—The Lord Tunnicliffe, The Lord Young of Norwood Green, The Lord Brett §, The Lord Faulkner of Worcester

BARONESSES IN WAITING—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Thornton, The Baroness Crawley

§ *Members of the Government with responsibilities in more than one area*

* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

Full list:

Ministers for the English Regions—
Ian Austin, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)
Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)
The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
Phil Woolas, MP (Minister for the North West)

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker—The Rt. Hon. John Bercow, MP

Chairman of Ways and Means—The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP
First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Sylvia Heal, MP
Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Sir Michael Lord, MP
Chairmen's Panel
The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP, Sylvia Heal, MP, Sir Michael Lord, MP
House of Commons Commission
The Rt. Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Stuart Bell, MP, The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, The Rt. Hon. David Maclean, MP, The Rt. Hon. Sir George Young, MP
Secretary of the Commission—Dorian Gerhold
Assistant Secretary—Robert Cope
Administration Estimate Audit Committee
The Rt. Hon. Sir George Young, MP (Chairman), Clive Betts, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, Mark Clarke, Alex Jablonowski, David Taylor
Secretary of the Audit Committee—Hannah White, PhD
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Secretary of the Management Board—Philippa Helme

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Trainbearer—Ian Davis
Diary Secretary—Eve Griffith-Okai (Acting)
Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter
Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Canon Robert Wright
Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

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Registrar of Members' Financial Interests—Alda Barry

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Executive Officer—Mark Harvey

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Head of Central Communications—Marianne Cwynarski
Communications Manager—Vasilis Gialias
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Secretary—Alison Game

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Standards and Privileges Committee: Clerks—Steve Priestley, Rhiannon Hollis

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Children, Schools and Families: Clerks—Kenneth Fox, Anne-Marie Griffiths
Communities and Local Government: Clerks—Huw Yardley, Sarah Ioannou
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Defence: Clerks—Mike Hennessy, Georgina Holmes-Skelton
Energy and Climate Change: Clerks—Tom Goldsmith, Robert Cope
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Clerks—Richard Cooke, Joanna Dodd
Foreign Affairs: Clerks—Robin James, PhD, Rebecca Davies, PhD
Health: Clerks—David Harrison, PhD, Martin Gaunt
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International Development: Clerks—Carol Oxborough, Keith Neary
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Scottish Affairs: Clerks—Nerys Welfoot, Alison Groves
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Treasury: Clerks—Eve Samson, Andrew Griffiths
Welsh Affairs: Clerks—Susan Griffiths, PhD, Alison Groves
Work and Pensions: Clerks—James Rhys, Emma Graham

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Selection: Clerk—Mick Hillyard

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Assistant to Director General—Tara Cullen
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Head of the Enquiries and Validation team—Dan Gorman

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Head of Quality Assurance—Guy Turner

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Data Security Review Manager—Jane Grieveson

Pensions Unit —
Head of Pensions— Jimmy Walker

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Consultant Occupational Health Physician—Dr. Ira Madan
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Food & Beverage Manager, Palace of Westminster—Christian Purser
Banqueting Manager—Jason Bonello
Assistant Catering Manager, Press Complex—Akua Mensah
Food & Beverage Manager, Northern Estate—Andrew Buckmaster
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Catering Manager, 7 Millbank—Nelly Chalil
Finance Manager—Angela Hook (Acting)
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Clerk of the Crown in Chancery—**Sir Suma Chakrabarti, KCB**
Comptroller and Auditor General—**Amyas Morse**
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman—**Ann Abraham**

18 November 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 19 November 2009

TREASURY

Tax Law Rewrite Project

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am pleased to tell the House that today we are introducing the Corporation Tax Bill and the Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Bill. These two Bills complete a 13 year task of rewriting the majority of direct tax legislation for individuals and businesses that started in 1996. They are the Tax Law Rewrite project's final Bills and maintain the project's high standards in making tax legislation significantly easier to use. This would not have been possible without the expertise, time and commitment of all those involved in commenting on the provisions during consultation and I would like to thank them and the members of the Tax Law Rewrite project's steering and consultative committees for their invaluable help in making the project's work such a success.

The Bills were published in draft on 3 March 2009 for consultation and response documents reporting on the outcome of that consultation were published on 3 September this year.

The Corporation Tax Bill completes the rewrite of the main corporation tax provisions. The Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Bill rewrites a number of international tax provisions and also rewrites and relocates some provisions which would otherwise be left unhelpfully in the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 or one of the Finance Acts. The scope of the Bills was agreed with the project's consultative and steering committees, which together include the main representative bodies and other users, and I am pleased by the wide support they have amongst the tax community. Like all previous Bills prepared by the project, they rewrite the law without changing its general effect. All the provisions have benefited from detailed consultation and the drafting style and structure is in line with that of the previous rewrite Bills.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The Government are correcting an omission in section 214B of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), inserted by section 171 of the Banking Act 2009, relating to the calculation of the contribution of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to Special Resolution Regime (SRR) costs. The necessary amendments are included in the Financial Services Bill but new regulations made under the revised power will have retrospective effect so they will take effect from today.

In the event of a bank or building society ("an institution's") insolvency the FSCS provides statutory compensation to eligible depositors, up to a prescribed limit currently set (in rules made by the Financial Services Authority (FSA)) at £50,000. On paying the compensation, the FSCS takes over the depositors' claims against the estate of the insolvent institution. The FSCS is funded by levies on industry.

The SRR, established by part 1 of the Banking Act 2009, enables the authorities to resolve a failing institution, rather than allowing it to become insolvent. Under regulations made under section 214B FSMA, the FSCS may be required to contribute to the costs of the SRR, up to the net cost that the FSCS would have had to incur in a counterfactual scenario where the institution had instead gone into insolvency.

The change will mean that the Government can include the interest costs incurred in a resolution in the calculation of costs to which the FSCS may be required to contribute. It will also mean that the maximum contribution the FSCS can be required to make will include interest costs which the FSCS would have borne in the hypothetical scenario where the institution had gone into insolvency.

This will be achieved through the keeping of two separate accounts which record all costs (including interest), recoveries, and any interim contributions to SRR costs which the FSCS is required to make. The interest will be calculated by applying interest rates prescribed by the Treasury to the net balance in the relevant account at that time.

First, a real account will be kept which records all actual resolution outlays the authorities incur and all associated inflows (that is, the proceeds of the disposal of the assets of the failed institution and any interim contributions to SRR costs). Interest will be calculated periodically (on the net balance on the account) and added to the outlays.

Secondly, a hypothetical account will be kept based on the counterfactual scenario using data from the FSCS as to how much compensation would have been paid and when. Interest will be added to reflect the cost of the borrowing the FSCS would have needed to fund compensation payments. The timed recoveries that would have been received from the insolvent estate are to be determined by an independent valuer and will be included in the account and will reduce the balance on which interest is calculated. Any interim contributions the FSCS is required to make to the SRR and any compensation the FSCS has actually paid to depositors will also be included to reduce the balance on which interest is calculated.

When all recoveries have been made the real account will show the net cost of the resolution including interest incurred by that date; the hypothetical account will show the net cost of compensating depositors were the institution allowed to fail, including interest up to that date. After independent verification, the FSCS may be required to contribute up to the lower of the two accounts. Payment may be requested before all recoveries have been made based on an estimate of the payment required which, if included in the lower of the two accounts, would bring the balance when all recoveries have been made to zero. If, after all recoveries had been made, this turned out to be too large a contribution, the Treasury would make a balancing payment to the FSCS.

Since this power is to have retrospective effect from today, this interest cost will be included in the two accounts kept in relation to Dunfermline Building Society from the date of this announcement. As announced on 30 March 2009 the FSCS will be required to pay a contribution to resolution costs at the end of the Dunfermline Building Society resolution; no interim contributions to SRR costs will be required.

The interest rate to be used on the two accounts in relation to Dunfermline Building Society is 4.50 per cent. This rate reflects the rate of interest the FSCS would have had to pay were the institution to become insolvent and funds were borrowed in order to make compensation payments to depositors, with recoveries made over an estimated five-year period.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Primary Schools

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Following the announcement in the Queen's speech yesterday about our intention to introduce a new primary national curriculum from September 2011, I am today publishing the details of what the primary curriculum will look like and announcing improved accountability arrangements for primary schools from 2010.

Primary Curriculum

The new national curriculum has been developed following an independent review of the primary curriculum by Sir Jim Rose. In January 2008, I asked Sir Jim to carry out the review, the first in 10 years, to update the primary curriculum and ensure that it is the very best it can be to meet the needs of all children in the 21st century. Sir Jim published his interim report in December 2008 and final report and draft new primary curriculum at the end of April 2009. In carrying out his review, Sir Jim drew on a wide range of responses including over 1,000 e-mails and letters, 50 primary school visits to see what is already happening in good schools to bring learning to life, and evidence of international best practice in other successful countries. He was supported by an advisory group made up of teachers and head teachers and an expert editorial group to write the new curriculum made up of subject experts.

His recommendations, which we accepted in full, were published and well received by the teaching profession in April this year. Underpinning Sir Jim's recommendations and the design of the new curriculum was attention to building on best practice, securing the essentials of literacy, numeracy, ICT capability and personal skills and development as part of every child's entitlement to a broad, balanced and well rounded primary education. And to achieve this through both rigorous and direct subject teaching and equally rigorous and enriching cross-curricular studies. To quote his final report:

> "Our best primary schools already demonstrate that, far from narrowing learning, these priorities—literacy, numeracy, ICT skills and personal development—are crucial for enabling children to access a broad and balanced curriculum. Excellence in the basics supports the achievement of breadth and balance in primary education.
>
> Our primary schools also show that high standards are best secured when essential knowledge and skills are learned both through direct, high quality subject teaching and also through this content being applied and used in cross-curricular studies."

The proposed curriculum was the subject of extensive consultation over the summer by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) and the results of that consultation are also being published today. QCDA received 1,057 responses to the general consultation survey; 507 responses from a consultation specifically designed for children; and 375 responses from a consultation specifically designed for parents. In addition, QCDA held 49 focus groups with head teachers, initial teacher training providers, local authorities, organisations concerned with inclusion issues, unions and professional representatives. They also ran a series of conferences with over 700 attendees made up of governors, education professionals, subject associations, teachers and head teachers.

The findings of the consultation showed high levels of support, between 70 per cent. and 80 per cent., for Sir Jim's main proposals. In addition:

70 per cent. agreed that the areas of learning help teachers plan meaningful learning experiences;

71 per cent. agreed that they will help children make useful links between related subjects;

83 per cent. agreed that the proposals to integrate ICT through the curriculum will help children use technology to enhance their learning;

70 per cent. agreed that the proposed curriculum will give schools more flexibility to adapt to the needs of their children; and

69 per cent. agreed that the proposed curriculum is less prescriptive than the existing curriculum and provides schools with greater flexibility to adapt the curriculum to the needs of their pupils.

In the light of such overwhelming support from teachers, parents and pupils, we have agreed with Sir Jim that the new primary national curriculum will be organised into six broad areas of learning, rather than the current subjects with less detailed programmes of learning to allow greater focus on strengthening literacy and numeracy skills and more time to study essential knowledge and skills in depth. There is also a greater emphasis on developing ICT capability and personal learning and thinking skills and smoothing transition to and from primary school.

The six areas of learning are:

understanding English, communication and languages;

mathematical understanding;

understanding the arts;

historical, geographical and social understanding;

understanding physical development, health and wellbeing;

scientific and technological understanding.

While RE is not part of the statutory national curriculum it is no less important and we will be publishing an illustrative programme of learning alongside new non-statutory guidance in January.

Due to the positive response to Jim Rose's proposals, few changes have been made to the proposed areas of learning. However, after consulting with parents, teachers, the science community and other interested parties, pupils will be expected to explicitly cover evolution as part of their learning. Learning about evolution is an important part of science education, and pupils already learn about it at secondary school. The revised area of learning for historical, geographical and social understanding also confirms that learning about British history is a key feature.

The new primary national curriculum promotes:

high standards and good progress for all learners, with no child left behind;

a strengthened focus on securing essential literacy and numeracy skills with opportunities to develop, use and apply these skills embedded throughout the new curriculum;

increased expectations of children's ICT capability and the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning;

a continued entitlement to a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum through the creation of broad areas of learning, which will be underpinned by the new 'pupil guarantee';

recognition that children need a well-rounded school experience to succeed, and that personal development is essential to wellbeing and achievement;

better transition from the early years through to primary and through to secondary education.

It will also provide schools with a powerful tool to tackle continuous school improvement through self assessment, renewal, development and review of the effectiveness of their curriculum. The reduced prescription will encourage teachers to use their professional judgement and expertise to design the curriculum and allow schools to increase flexibility to tailor learning to their local circumstances and the needs of all children in their care.

Setting out the content of the new curriculum in three phases—early, middle, later primary—will aid planning for progression and help reduce the dip in performance in the middle years of primary school. It also recognises the opportunities that play-based learning offers for approaches into Key Stage 1 and encourages active learning in the whole primary phase.

Our new curriculum lies at the heart of our policies to raise standards and help every school to improve all of the time. It should help children become the very best they can be. We live in a changing world, and our new curriculum will ensure that our children are fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges of life in the 21st century.

Primary School Accountability

In May 2009, I accepted in full the recommendations of the expert group on assessment. They recommended that Key Stage 2 tests in English and mathematics should remain in place because they are vital for accountability and for providing information to parents about their child's progress.

They also made a number of recommendations to strengthen the quality of teacher assessment and said that:

> "As these changes are made and as chartered assessors are introduced, DCSF should monitor progress in strengthening the reliability and consistency of teacher assessment, and in developing an infrastructure which provides assurance about this."

In line with the expert group's recommendation that tests should remain in place, I have today approved QCDA's choice of preferred test operations contractor for delivering English and maths tests for 11-year-olds in 2010.

Following consultations with key stakeholders and with members of the expert group, I have also decided to take a further step in recognising the value of teachers' own assessments. From 2010, we will publish primary schools' teacher assessment data for pupils in year six in English, maths and science. This will be published alongside test data for English and maths in our achievement and attainment tables. It is also my intention, from 2011, to introduce a light touch local moderation process for this teacher assessment. We will consult with schools, local authorities, other stakeholders and the expert group on the introduction of a system that will best support teachers and strengthen their assessments.

I have always said that the assessment and testing system is not set in stone and that what is important is that it works best for pupils and schools and provides parents with the information that they need. To that end from 2011, we are introducing the new school report card, which will be underpinned by the new powers we are taking in the Bill. We are currently consulting with stakeholders on the school report card, and we will consider data on teacher assessments as part of that consultation. These changes taken together are further evidence of our commitment to strong accountability.

I am placing a copy of the correspondence between myself and the Chief Executive of the QCDA, Andrew Hall, concerning the contract for the 2010 tests in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Service Personnel Command Paper (Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am today announcing the publication of the first annual report on the Service Personnel Command Paper, "The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans". Copies are being placed in the Library of the House.

Our forces personnel are prepared to put their lives on the line in service of the country. They willingly accept restrictions to their lifestyle and the unique conditions of service that are required to do the job. But on becoming service personnel, they have not ceased to be citizens. Government have a moral obligation to ensure they are not disadvantaged as citizens by service life. The Service Personnel Command Paper was about meeting that obligation.

The measures we set out last year were well received by the services, by veterans groups and by the public at large. But we are determined to ensure that the commitment set out in that paper does not fade. One of the steps we took was to ask our external reference group (ERG) to monitor delivery, and to report annually. It is the first of these reports which is being published today.

The report charts the progress that has been made including the delivery of significant improvements in a number of areas. For example we have doubled the compensation paid for the most serious injuries; extended eligibility to affordable housing schemes; opened up access to free further education for service leavers; improved the immigration arrangements for families of Foreign and Commonwealth personnel; and taken steps to ensure that service families retain their places on NHS waiting lists when they move. Other measures will be delivered in the coming months, such as the MOD's affordable home ownership pilot scheme. The report also highlights areas where we may need to do more, such as ensuring that veterans receive priority treatment under the NHS when entitled to it, and that childcare arrangements meet the requirements of service families. The Government will be following up the valuable points made in the report, for example by taking further steps to raise awareness of veterans' needs among GPs, and pressing on generally with implementation of the measures announced last year. Our commitment continues undiminished.

The ERG brings together representatives from a wide range of Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations, with leading charities and the service families federations. It offers a unique perspective on how well we are doing, and I am very grateful to its members. This report shows how the dialogue between Government and the third sector on how best to support the armed forces community has grown and developed over the past year. That relationship, and its continued improvement, is very important to us. I look forward to the ERG's future reports as further progress is made in this vital work.

I commend to the House this annual report on the nation's commitment to the armed forces community.

Reserves Call-Out Order

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): With the expiry of the call-out Order made on 11 November 2008, a new Order has been made under Section 54 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into service to support operations in Afghanistan. The new Order is effective until 10 November 2010. Reservists continue to make a valuable contribution to operations in that country and some 1200 reservists are currently called-out and serving, of whom 650 are deployed in theatre. The remainder are preparing for, or recovering from, operations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood and Water Management Bill

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I would like to inform the House that today I have introduced to Parliament a revised Flood and Water Management Bill, laid regulations under the European Communities Act to implement the EU floods directive and published a command paper setting out the Government's response to pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation on the draft Bill.

The floods in 2007 claimed 13 lives and cost our economy £3 billion.

Sir Michael Pitt undertook a comprehensive review of the lessons to be learned from the floods. He called for urgent and fundamental changes in the way the country is adapting to the increased risk of flooding. To ensure that the 5 million people living in flood risk areas around the country are better protected we are also investing more than ever in maintaining traditional flood defences—£2.15 billion in the current spending round.

Since the 2007 floods the Environment Agency has completed and maintained 102 flood defence schemes, protecting over 63,000 additional homes in England. Operating authorities are currently on course to exceed delivery targets and provide better protection to 160,000 homes over the three years to March 2011.

In this time, Government have also, among other measures, provided £15 million funding to local authorities to help them manage local flood risk, and set up a flood forecasting centre that will improve the way we predict potential flooding and the exchange of information between emergency services.

We also promised legislation as a central part of this programme of action.

In April this year, the UK Government and Welsh Assembly Government published the draft Flood and Water Management Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation.

The public consultation on the draft Bill in England and Wales generated over [illegible]60 responses. A summary of the responses is also being published today on the DEFRA website at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/policy/fwmb/

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee published its report on its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill on 23 September. The Department is grateful to the Committee, and to those who gave evidence, for their vigour and commitment in developing the report. The Government have considered it very carefully.

We believe the consultation responses indicate broad support for our overarching proposals. Both they and the EFRA Select Committee's report gave valuable and useful feedback that has informed the way forward, which is now set out in the command paper published today. That command paper sets out the Department's response to each of the recommendations made by the Select Committee.

In line with one of the Committee's recommendations I have also today arranged for copies of a statement from Ofwat to be placed in the House Library. This statement sets out Ofwat's assessment of the risks to water industry investors of the Bill's proposed changes to the regulatory regime.

Some have argued that it is preferable to wait until it is possible to bring forward a single Bill which makes all the necessary changes to both flood and water legislation and brings them together with the current statute book. However, the Government are clear that it should legislate as soon as possible for the new clear roles and powers necessary to improve the protection of people from the risk of floods.

The Bill also meets our commitment to safeguard community groups, such as churches and scouts, from the unaffordable increases in surface water drainage charges they face now.

Furthermore, the EU floods directive is due to be transposed this month. This has led us to lay regulations now, to avoid unreasonable delays and the increased risks of infraction.

Climate projections suggest that extreme weather will happen more frequently in future. Members will be aware of the many flood warnings issued this week and the work being carried out at this moment by the Environment Agency, local authorities, emergency services and the voluntary sector to help protect homes, businesses and people against the risk of flooding. Our thanks go to those many people and organisations on the front-line, tackling flooding, and our thoughts are with those directly affected.

Serious flooding can happen any time. This Bill is central to reducing that risk.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies), will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 19 and 20 November.

There are a number of items on the agenda relating to agriculture and fisheries which are of significant interest to the United Kingdom, including the adoption of the recent dairy proposals, on which the UK will abstain. Discussions will take place on the following:

conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures;

EU/Norway annual fisheries consultations for 2010;

2010 fishing opportunities for fish stocks in the Black Sea;

simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy;

future of the common agricultural policy: rural development.

There are currently two items under any other business—a statement on community action reducing incidental catches of seabirds; and general conclusions from the 26th conference of EU paying agencies.

There is also a ministerial lunch scheduled to discuss the reform of the common fisheries policy.

HEALTH

Report of Exercise Peak Practice

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): A report of Exercise Peak Practice has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Exercise Peak Practice consisted of 10 strategic, "tabletop" exercises, one led by each strategic health authority in England to help prepare for a possible second wave of swine flu this winter.

The events achieved the intended aim of exercising the management of the NHS and social care systems against the backdrop of normal seasonal activity and the rising threat posed by swine flu. The report also summarises the NHS board statements of readiness for responding to swine flu, which show that there are robust leadership and governance arrangements in place.

We must not underestimate the threat that swine flu still poses but all our pandemic planning means that both NHS and social care are well placed to respond.

Improving Health, Supporting Justice - A National Delivery Plan

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): On 29 October, I reported progress to Parliament on the progress achieved further to my right hon. and noble Friend Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. The Government accepted the direction of travel set out by Lord Bradley, and committed to developing a national delivery plan incorporating a full response to the report's recommendations.

I am pleased to report that "Improving Health, Supporting Justice", the Government's national delivery plan, was published and launched at a cross-departmental health and criminal justice conference in York on Tuesday 17 November. This delivery plan will contribute to key Government initiatives around protecting the public, reducing health inequalities, reducing reoffending and health improvement and protection. In particular, it aims to:

provide a strategic framework within which local services can deliver quality improvements, and to communicate the framework to the relevant NHS and criminal justice organisations;

set out the actions the Government will take to support these improvements; and

develop a national approach, by building on the good work and good practice that is already underway in individual localities and maintain the significant impetus and enthusiasm created by Lord Bradley's report, to drive forward improvements in health and social care services for offenders.

On 29 October, I also reported that Keith Pearson (chair of NHS East of England), has been appointed as the chair of the health and criminal justice national advisory group. I am now pleased to inform you that the following organisations have been appointed as members of this group to date:

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

Association of Directors for Social Services (ADASS)

British Medical Association (BMA)

British Psychological Society

Calderdale Women's Centre

Council for Disabled Children and the Transition Information Network

Drugscope

Faculty for Forensic and Legal Medicine

Fawcett Society

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Keyring

Magistrates Association

Mencap

National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO)

National Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health and Psychological

Wellbeing

NHS Confederation

Partnerships in Care

Prison Officers Association (POA)
Police Federation
Prison Reform Trust
Rethink
Revolving Doors
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Psychiatry
Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health
St Ann's Community Centre
Together Working for Wellbeing
Youth Justice Board

"Improving Health, Supporting Justice - a National Delivery Plan" is now available on the Department of Health website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationspolicyAndGuidance/DH_108606.

A copy has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity Cards

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I am pleased to announce that a further Identity Cards Act commencement order has been made to extend the availability of voluntary identity cards to members of the public in Greater Manchester, starting from Monday 30 November 2009.

From that date, applications for voluntary identity cards may be made by airside workers at Manchester and London City airports and by British citizens who hold a passport or whose passport has recently expired and who live or work in the Greater Manchester area. Identity cards may also be applied for by people working in the Home Office in the Greater London area or who work in the Identity and Passport Service.

G6 Meeting

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): The informal G6 group of Interior Ministers from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and the UK held their most recent meeting in London on 5 November. The UK currently holds the presidency of the G6 group and the meeting was chaired by the Home Secretary.

The meeting was divided into three working sessions, the first two of which were attended by the core G6 Ministers. This group sat again for the final working session, with the additional guest attendance of the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano.

The first working session considered the issue of organised crime, where the Home Secretary presented the results of the UK's recent domestic review: "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime", published in July, and asked what more the G6 countries could do together to tackle the threats posed. The group exchanged experiences of what had been found to work in each country in tackling organised crime. There was broad agreement to the need for organised crime to be raised up the agenda. Ministers recognised the value of working together to tackle organised crime, and agreed to more sharing of best practice where relevant.

During the second session the Ministers considered what benefits data sharing could bring to strengthen borders, improve identity management and facilitate the prevention and detection of serious organised crime but also the challenges faced to ensure data were secure and protected. There was less of a consensus on this issue due to the incompatibility between legal systems in each state.

The afternoon session opened with a presentation by the UK of the current terrorist threat assessment. Ministers offered information on the threats posed in their respective countries. This was followed by a discussion of how to counter radicalisation through community engagement, which focused mainly on the role of Mosques in radicalisation of young people. Conversation centred on difficulties of Mosques preaching in a non EU language (for early stage interventions), and considerations of how to better regulate Imams.

The Interior Minister of Spain, Alfredo Rubalcaba, also took the opportunity to offer a factual presentation on his plans for the Spanish presidency of the EU, which will start on 1 January 2010. There was no discussion.

The next meeting of the G6 is expected to be held in Italy in the first half of next year.

JUSTICE

Correction to Response to Parliamentary Question

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): In December 2007 the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) asked a parliamentary question, on delivery services, *Official Report*, column 1462W [170171], about companies under contract to the Ministry of Justice to provide mail services, and the Minister of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) answered. I have now taken over responsibility for this area from my hon. Friend. While preparing the answer to a more recent question from the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland on the subject, officials have identified two errors in the answer to the earlier question. I am sorry that these errors were made. I hope it will be helpful if I clarify the position now.

The information about DX Services Ltd was incorrectly reported. Although the Ministry of Justice was using DX Services Ltd at that time it did not have any formal contracts in place. Each constituent part of the Ministry of Justice had its own local agreement with DX Services Ltd but none of them had entered into a formal contract with the supplier.

Reference was made in the answer to TNT and Amtrak being under formal contract to provide mail services. However, at the time both of these suppliers were under contract to provide courier services only for the Ministry of Justice and not mail services. Amtrak have since gone into liquidation and no longer provide services for the Department.

I assure the House that the Ministry of Justice is taking action to address the issues of ensuring formal contracts are in place.

Civil Law Reform Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): In June 2009 the Government confirmed their intention to publish a draft Civil Law Reform Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny. I am today announcing that the Bill will be published in December and will include provisions:

to implement the reforms to the law of damages announced by the Ministry of Justice in July 2009;

to reform the law of succession so that where a person is disqualified by the forfeiture rule or refuses an inheritance by disclaimer his or her heirs are not disinherited;

to implement the reforms of the law relating to the calculation of interest on judgment debts and damages announced by the Ministry of Justice on 16 September 2008; and

to transfer the jurisdiction for appeals in barristers' disciplinary hearings to the High Court.

The draft Bill will not now include provisions to reform the law of limitation of actions. These provisions were based on a Law Commission report of 2001. But a recent consultation with key stakeholders has demonstrated that there are insufficient benefits and potentially large-scale costs associated with the reform. In addition, the courts have remedied some of the most significant difficulties with the law that the Law Commission identified, for example, in relation to the limitation aspects of child abuse cases. The limitation reforms will therefore not now be taken forward.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislative Programme (2009-10)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Listed below are those Bills which the Government intend to bring forward in the current session. Details of each of these Bills are available from the Leader of the House of Commons website: www.CommonsLeader.gov.uk/Legislation:

1) Bribery
2) Children, Schools and Families
3) Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions)
4) Crime and Security
5) Digital Economy
6) Energy
7) Financial Services
8) Fiscal Responsibility
9) Flood and Water Management
10) Northern Ireland Assembly Members
11) Personal Care at Home

Carry-over Bills

1) Child Poverty
2) Constitutional Reform and Governance
3) Equality

Draft Bills for consideration in the 5th Session

1) Animal Health Responsibility and Cost Sharing
2) Antarctic*
3) Civil Law Reform**
4) House of Lords Reform
5) Immigration Simplification*
6) International Development Spending

The Government's response and summary of the consultation on the 2009-10 Draft Legislative Programme was laid before the House yesterday and is available from the Vote Office and the Leader of the House of Commons website: www.CommonsLeader.gov.uk

*Previously announced and published in the 2008-09 (4th) session; for consideration in the 2009-10 (5th) session

** Previously announced in the 2008-09 (4th) session and yet to be published; for consideration in the 2009-10 (5th) session

NORTHERN IRELAND

Legislative Programme

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Fifth Session UK legislative programme unveiled in the Queen's Speech on the 18 November contains measures of relevance to the people of Northern Ireland.

The following is a summary of the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech and its impact in Northern Ireland. It includes both new Bills that will be introduced in the current Session and Bills carried over from the last Session. It does not include draft Bills.

The list also identifies the lead Government Department.

The following Bills extend to Northern Ireland, in whole or in part, and deal mainly with excepted or reserved matters. Discussions will continue between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that where provisions that are specifically for a transferred purpose are included in any of these Bills, the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly will be sought for them:

Bribery Bill (MoJ)
Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill (MOD)
Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill (MoJ) (introduced in Fourth Session)
Crime and Security Bill (HO)
Fiscal Responsibility Bill (HMT)

It is intended that the following Bills will extend to Northern Ireland to varying degrees. They require the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly in relation to those provisions in the devolved field:

Child Poverty Bill (Child Poverty Unit) (introduced in Fourth Session)
Equality Bill (Government Equalities Office) (introduced in Fourth Session)
Digital Economy Bill (DCMS)
Financial Services Bill (HMT)

Discussions will continue between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on Bills that might include provisions that require the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The following Bills will have limited or no impact in Northern Ireland:

Children, Schools and Families Bill
Energy Bill
Flood and Water Management Bill
Personal Care at Home Bill

SCOTLAND

Legislative Programme

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): The legislative programme for the fifth Session was outlined on the 18 November. Eight of the 10 new Bills outlined in the Queen's Speech in this final Session of the current Parliament contain provisions that apply to Scotland; once again this is a programme that will significantly benefit people living in Scotland.

In this Session the Government will focus on supporting the economy as we move from recession to recovery and we will take forward measures to support people living and working in our communities.

This statement provides a summary of the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech and its application to Scotland. This statement includes both new Bills that will be introduced shortly, and those Bills that are carrying-over from the last Session. It does not include draft Bills. The Bills listed in section 1 are likely to contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament in line with the Sewel convention. A brief description is provided of the provisions likely to require consent. Section 2 details Bills that are not likely to contain provisions that require the consent of the Scottish Parliament, by way of a Legislative Consent Motion (LCM).

The list also identifies the lead Government Department:

1. UK Legislation likely to contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament at introduction:

Discussions will continue between the Government and Scottish Ministers on Bills that might include provisions that trigger the Sewel convention. The Bills identified within the Queen's Speech in this section are as follows:

Bribery (MoJ)—This Bill primarily relates to criminal law which is a devolved matter in Scotland. Following a consultation exercise in Scotland, Scottish Ministers have agreed that the best way to reform the law on bribery in Scotland is via an LCM extending full provisions of this Bill to Scotland.

Child Poverty Bill (HMT) (introduced in the 4th Session)—This Bill enshrines in law the Government's commitment to end child poverty by 2020. Four indicators of child poverty are identified by this Bill. An LCM is required in order to extend the commitment to those matters that are within the competence of the Scottish Parliament.

Constitutional Reform and Governance (MoJ) (introduced in the 4th Session)—The majority of the provisions in the Bill extend to Scotland and Bill aims to rebuild trust in our democratic and constitutional settlement by reinforcing the principles of transparency, accountability and probity across Government. An LCM is required for provisions concerning requirements placed upon the Scottish Ministers in relation to the civil service and special advisers. An LCM is also required for the amendments concerning time-limits for human rights claims under the Human Rights and Devolution Acts.

Crime and Security (Home Office)—The majority of this Bill will not apply to Scotland, however provisions that give Scottish Ministers new powers to regulate the private security industry will require a LCM.

Energy Bill (DECC)—This Bill will commit the Government to developing the use of clean coal and help vulnerable households with their energy Bills. It will require an LCM for the provisions that relate to funding for up to four commercial-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects.

Equality Bill (GEO) (introduced in 4th Session)—Equal opportunities is a reserved matter. This Bill requires an LCM as it will amend the Scottish Ministers functions by allowing them to impose specific public sector duties on the Scottish public bodies for the three new strands.

Financial Services Bill (HMT)—The Bill will strengthen governance of the financial sector, control the system of rewards and ensure savers and lenders are fully protected. An LCM will be required for provisions relating to consumer education.

Flood and Water Management (DEFRA)—The Bill generally applies to England and Wales only but an LCM will be required for provisions relating to cross-border reservoir safety.

2. UK Legislation unlikely to contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament at introduction:

Discussions will continue between the Government and Scottish Ministers to ensure that, if provisions relating to matters which trigger the Sewel convention are included in any of these Bills during their passage at Westminster, the consent of the Scottish Parliament will be sought for them in line with the Sewel convention:

Personal Care at Home Bill (DoH)
Children, Schools and Families Bill (DCSF)
Fiscal Responsibility (HMT)
Digital Economy (DCMS)
Cluster Munitions (FCO)

TRANSPORT

Local Transport Act 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): Following the completion of our public consultation, we have today published guidance from the Secretary of State to the senior traffic commissioner. The senior traffic commissioner is appointed under section 4D of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981, as inserted by the Local Transport Act 2008. The publication of the guidance follows a formal consultation, and the Department's summary of responses has also been published today.

The new guidance represents an important step in the implementation of reforms to the traffic commissioner regime, provided for by the Local Transport Act 2008, which attracted broad support during the passage of the Bill. In particular, there was wide support for the appointment of a senior traffic commissioner and the proposed strengthened independence for traffic commissioners. This is achieved in part by replacing powers for the Secretary of State to issue directions to individual traffic commissioners with a power to issue guidance to the senior traffic commissioner.

The aim of the new guidance is to highlight issues and outcomes which the Secretary of State regards as key, and to provide guidance to the senior traffic commissioner as to how he might exercise his powers in relation to those issues. We expect that the senior traffic commissioner will want to issue a formal response to the new guidance in due course.

Copies of the guidance and summary of responses have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/trafficcommissioner/.

Better Rail Stations Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> In May 2009 I invited Sir Peter Hall, Professor of Planning at University College London, and Chris Green, formerly Chief Executive of Virgin Trains, to advise on ways to improve railway stations in England and Wales, focusing on getting the basic facilities right as well as considering the broader role of stations in the future.
>
> Their report, which I have published, focuses on:
>
> achieving an enhanced and consistent level of facilities at each type of station, so that passengers can find what they need and know what to expect;
>
> a greater emphasis on end-to-end journeys, with more attention given to helping passengers get to and from the station by bus, bike or car; and
>
> more effective integration of public transport into the planning of local communities.
>
> These are all vital to the creation of a modern transport system that promotes individual choice and supports the national economy. The report complements existing Government initiatives, such as the £14 million which I recently announced to improve the provision for cyclists at stations.
>
> The champions have found that the largest stations, including the main termini, are generally up to the standards that passengers should expect. But there are stations in the next tier—the major interchanges—which fall below the required standard and are in urgent need of attention. The Government and Network Rail are committed to a rolling programme of improvements to major stations, and I have agreed with Network Rail that they will make up to £50 million available to enable an early start to be made on the 10 key stations highlighted in the report. My Department will be working closely with Network Rail to decide on a programme of work, funded by them, developer and local contributions and through the franchising process. The investment will of course be subject to a satisfactory business case and the prospect of an adequate financial return. I am challenging the industry and local government to raise part of the money required for each of these stations themselves. It is very important that the additional programme funding that I am announcing should be supplemented in this way so that as many stations as possible can be tackled.
>
> It will be helpful and constructive to give organisations in the industry, the devolved Administrations and local government an opportunity to comment on the many very detailed proposals in the report before we decide how to take them forward. I want to be sure that when we implement the report we give priority to the most urgent actions and get the best possible value for the taxpayer's investment.
>
> I am placing copies of the champions' report, the Government's initial response and the consultation I have launched in the Libraries of both Houses. The text of these documents is also being posted on my Department's website.

WALES

Legislative Programme

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the Government's Fifth Session legislative programme outlined on 18 November will contain 14 Bills.

Thirteen of the Bills outlined in the Queen's Speech in this final Session of the current Parliament contain provisions that affect Wales; once again this is a programme that will significantly benefit people living in Wales.

In this Session the Government will focus on supporting the economy as we move from recession to recovery, we will take forward measures to support people living and working in our communities.

This statement provides a list of the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech and its application to Wales. This statement includes both new Bills that will be introduced shortly, and those Bills that are carrying-over from the last Session. It does not include draft Bills.

There will be two Bills with Framework Provisions:

> *Children, Schools and Families Bill:* Framework Power for the National Assembly for Wales regarding regulation of home education; There are two other mirror provisions for Wales in relation to an obligation for schools to provide information to Welsh Ministers, and, separately, information sharing for children's safeguarding purposes.
>
> *Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill: (Carry-over):* Framework power for the National for Wales to legislate on the governance and organisational structures of the Wales Audit Office.
>
> There are three other provisions for Wales that will enable Minister for the civil service to issue separate codes of conduct for civil servants and special advisers in the Welsh Assembly Government (after consulting the First Minister);requires First Minister to report annually to the Assembly on special advisers;
>
> Introduce a one-year time limit for human rights claims brought against the Welsh Ministers under the Government of Wales Act.
>
> Enable Welsh Ministers to designate bodies so that estimates of their expenditure are included in the Assembly's annual Budget motion.

Three Bills will contain specific provisions for Wales, which will generally be provisions to confer the same powers on Welsh Ministers, in devolved areas of responsibility, as are being conferred on UK Ministers in those areas in relation to England. These are:

> *Equality Bill (Carry-over):* Welsh Ministers will obtain a power to confer additional specific equalities duties on public bodies carrying out devolved functions and the devolved functions of cross-border bodies.
>
> *Flood and Water Management Bill:* Provisions about flood and coastal erosion risk management will make Welsh Ministers responsible for preparing a national strategy and approving local flood risk management strategies;

Welsh Ministers will also be able to make regulations about procedures relating to the designation of flood and coastal erosion risks.

Provisions about reservoir safety will give Welsh Ministers power to make regulations about the registration of large raised reservoirs and the designation of high-risk reservoirs.

Welsh Ministers will have power to make regulations about provision of water and sewerage infrastructure, which may require that projects are put out to tender.

Welsh Ministers will have power to modify circumstances in which water undertakers can impose temporary bans on water use.

Provisions about sustainable drainage will give Welsh Ministers functions, including issuing national standards and guidance.

Personal Care at Home Bill: Welsh Ministers will be given the same power to make regulations in this area as the Secretary of State.

Further Welsh provisions may be included as Bills scheduled for later introduction continue to be developed.

The Government continue to remain committed to delivering devolution through provisions in Westminster Bills and by using the legislative competence order process.

Other Bills applying to Wales:

Bribery Bill: The Bill will modernise law on bribery to support the highest ethical standards across business and public life and to equip prosecutors and courts to deal effectively with bribery.

Child Poverty (Carry-over): The Bill will support the Government's commitment to set target to eradicate child poverty by 2020. This will mean tackling the underlying causes of poverty rather then just treating the symptoms.

Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill: The Bill will make it an offence to use, produce, acquire or transfer cluster munitions, in order to give effect to prohibitions imposed by the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Crime and Security Bill: The Bill will increase the protection for communities against a range of threats and financial exploitation, violence and anti-social behaviour.

Digital Economy Bill: The Bill secures the United Kingdom's position as one of the world's leading digital knowledge economies and takes forward an active industrial policy to maximise the benefits from the digital revolution.

Energy Bill: The Bill will provide for financial support mechanism to bring forward commercial-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. It will also strengthen the powers of the regulators to ensure that social tariffs for energy suppliers are set to help those vulnerable to fuel poverty. The Bill will also extend the duties of the regulator, OFGEM, to ensure it takes climate change and consumer protection into account.

Financial Services Bill: The Bill will strengthen the financial system and will continue to respond to the global financial crisis to lay the basis for the recovery and success of businesses in the United Kingdom.

Fiscal Responsibility Bill: The Bill will aim to reduce the budget deficit, ensuring that the national debt remains sustainable in the medium term.

Bills not applying to Wales:

Northern Ireland Assembly Members Bill: The Bill will allow the Northern Ireland Assembly to delegate powers relating to the setting of its Members salaries and expenses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Remploy (Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): Remploy's achievement against its targets set by Government for 2008-09.

Target Description	*Target*	*Achievement*
To live within the Company's financial means in the 2008-09 financial year and achieve:		
operational funding result of	£121.5 m	121.5 m
modernisation of the business within a cost of	£23.0 m	£34.0 m
Factory Businesses to achieve:		
an operating result of	£67.6 m	£71.3 m
cost per disabled employee of	£22,000	£26,000
Employment Service business to achieve:		
an operating result [illegible]	£29.1 m	£29.1 m
total job entries [illegible]	7,500	7,640
of which Workstep job entries will be	5,500	5,874

Remploy will publish its annual report and accounts today giving further detail of its performance throughout 2008-09. Copies of the annual report and accounts will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In addition, I have on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, written to the Chairman of Remploy formally approving the agreed 2009-10 Performance and Resources Agreement between the Department and the Company. The agreement has been negotiated on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The targets for 2009-10 are:

Target Description	*Target*
To live within the Company's financial means in the 2009-10 financial year and achieve:	
operational funding result of	£128.5 m
modernisation of the business within a cost of	£10.1 m
Factory Businesses to achieve:	
an operating result of	£71.5 m
cost per disabled employee of	£26,000
Employment Service business to achieve:	
an operating result of	£34.4 m
total job entries of	9,860
of which Workstep job entries will be	7,000

The full Performance and Resource Agreement for 2009-10 will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 November 2009

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (18 November)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): On 18 November 2009, I represented the UK at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget ECOFIN).

Finance Ministers agreed to adopt Preliminary Draft Amending Budget 10 (as updated by the Commission and amended during the course of negotiations) to the 2009 EC Budget. This amends the 2009 Budget to reflect latest implementation capacity, thus reducing the level of funding required from member states in 2009.

Finance Ministers agreed to adopt amending letter 2 to the Commission's preliminary draft Budget for 2010, as amended during the negotiations. This included the latest information on agricultural market prices and other developments, support to nuclear decommissioning in Bulgaria and additional provisions for dairy sector support. In parallel, Finance Ministers also agreed to adopt the Commission's proposal to amend the inter-institutional agreement of 17 May 2006 as regards the multi-annual financial framework, again as amended during the negotiations.

During a conciliation meeting between the Council and the European Parliament, agreement was reached on the 2010 EC Budget and to finance the outstanding €2.4 billion tranche of the European economic recovery plan, in full, with no increase to the 2007-2013 financial framework. Financing was secured through a substantial reduction to the agriculture heading ceiling and smaller reductions to other ceilings including administration. This was matched by a corresponding increase to the spending ceiling for the Budget's competitiveness for growth and employment heading.

The agreement establishes total payment levels of €122,937 billion (1.04 per cent. of EU GNI). The European Parliament is scheduled to vote on its own Second Reading between 14 and 17 December, after which the 2010 EC Budget will be formally adopted. By working with our like-minded partners the Government secured a 2010 budget that was €4.6 billion (4 per cent.) lower than that proposed by the European Parliament and lower than the Commission's proposals.

Four joint statements relating to the Budget were also agreed at Budget ECOFIN. These concerned: the continuity of the 2010 budgetary procedure, the simplification and more targeted use of structural funds in the context of the economic crisis, EU buildings policy and the administration heading in 2010. The Government are supportive of these statements, which reaffirm the importance of community assistance through the structural and cohesion funds, and call for sound financial management and budget discipline in key areas of concern.

ECOFIN (10 November 2009)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 10 November 2009. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK. The following items were discussed:

Exit strategies from support measures to the financial sector

ECOFIN held an initial discussion on exit strategies from the measures taken by member states to support the financial sector, focusing on methods and timing for the phasing out of bank guarantee schemes put into place during the financial crisis. The Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) has been asked to take forward work on principles and possible timings, and report back as soon as possible. The UK believes that the design of successful exit strategies will need to take account of four high-level elements: co-operation, timing, sequencing and communication.

Follow-up to the October European Council

The presidency gave Ministers a de-brief on the outcomes of the October European Council.

Follow-up to the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting

The UK provided a de-brief of the G20 meeting in St. Andrews on 6 and 7 November, where G20 Finance Ministers discussed climate finance, exit strategies, and the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. The Prime Minister's calls for a rebalancing of risk and rewards in the financial sector were reiterated, as well as the options proposed to address this, which are to be further examined by the IMF: an insurance fee to reflect systemic risk; a resolution fund; contingent capital arrangements; and a global financial transactions levy. The Council emphasised the importance of continuing to ensure strong co-ordination between the EU and G20.

Sustainability of public finances

Ministers discussed and agreed a set of conclusions on the sustainability of public finances. The Government remain committed to a return to sustainable public finances when the recovery is fully secured, as set out in Budget 2009.

Better regulation—Reduction of administrative burdens

Ministers agreed conclusions on a Commission action programme, calling for more work to reduce administrative burdens by 25 per cent. by 2012.

Statistics

The Council reviewed progress made in relation to priorities established on statistical governance, the reduction of administrative burden related to statistics and the status report on information requirements, and endorsed an EFC opinion.

Taxation

a) Administrative co-operation in the field of taxation

ECOFIN discussed the draft directive, which is aimed at improving exchange of information and brings the EU into line with OECD standards by removing the right to refuse information on grounds of bank secrecy. It noted political reservations by Austria and Luxembourg and the need for further work on automatic exchange of information. It will return to ECOFIN in December.

b) Excise duties on tobacco products

The Council reached political agreement on a draft directive aimed at updating EU rules on the structure and minimum rates of excise duties on tobacco products. The Government are pleased with the outcome. The directive should ensure a higher level of public health protection by raising minimum excise duties on cigarettes and fine-cut tobacco, which will also help to reduce revenue lost to the Exchequer from cross-border shopping and smuggling of tobacco products into the UK from low tax EU member states.

HEALTH

Childhood Obesity

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): On the 19 November 2009, the NHS Information Centre issued the following errata statement:

> "As a result of a detailed validation carried out during the production of the Health Survey for England (HSE), 2008, the following error has been identified in the Health Survey for England series. The error pertains to childhood obesity data for the years 1995 to 2007 inclusive and will affect all publications during these years.
>
> Between 1995 and 2007 there was an error which meant that small numbers of children that should have been classified as either "overweight" or "obese" were omitted from these categories because of rounding of age and body mass index (BMI) thresholds. The revised percentages of those who were overweight in each year differ by 0.1 to 0.8 percentage points and for those who were obese in each year they differ by 0.1 to 1.1 percentage points from those originally published, and 0.3 per cent. to 1.2 per cent. of children in each year were misclassified. In no cases were results significantly different from those presented previously.
>
> An updated version of the following latest trend table for 1995 to 2007 has therefore been published: children table 4, children's overweight and obesity prevalence, by survey year, age-group and sex.
>
> This table gives revised figures from the trend tables for 1995 to 2007, as included both in the main reports and separate trend table publications.
>
> References to these figures within the publications have not been corrected, as the changes are small and will be corrected in the next HSE report which is expected to be published in December 2009. Figures within the reports, referring to the children's categories of overweight or obese may be slightly different, but none are significantly different. All figures in the Health Survey for England 2008 (expected to be published on 17 December 2009), main report and trend tables will be calculated using the correct methodology and the time series data for 1995 to 2007 will all be updated using the correct methodology".

While the data error is unfortunate, we are confident that the data on childhood obesity have been updated and will be reported accurately in future. Our predictions for childhood obesity remain the same.

A copy of the table has been placed in the Library.

NHS Staff Health and Well-being

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I am today placing in the Library the Government response to Dr. Steve Boorman's review into "NHS health and well-being".

Dr. Boorman was commissioned by the former Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), following Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population: "Working for a healthier tomorrow". His review also supports the commitment to NHS staff in the NHS constitution that: "The NHS commits to provide support and opportunities for staff to maintain their health, well-being and safety".

Dr. Boorman, supported by his independent review team, has engaged widely with NHS stakeholders and has gathered and analysed a large amount of evidence about staff health and well-being in the NHS. He makes 20 recommendations to improve staff health and well-being, which we welcome and fully support and accept.

Improving health and well-being is one of the staff pledges in the NHS constitution and Dr Boorman's report contributes to the case for staff engagement and well-being as vital if the NHS is to meet the quality and productivity challenge. Dr. Boorman's report emphasises the impact of staff health and well-being on the quality of care that they give patients. Organisations that have better staff health and well-being indicators also have better patient satisfaction scores.

In terms of productivity, the business case for reducing sickness absence is unquestionable: there are 10.7 million days lost to sickness absence each year in the NHS—at a cost of £1.7 billion. Dr. Boorman proposes that the NHS could—as a whole—reduce sickness absence by one third and save the NHS £550 million a year. This has been achieved by other large organisations following strategic health and well-being initiatives.

Dr. Boorman's findings demonstrate clearly to the NHS that investing in staff health and well-being will reap long-term benefits. NHS organisations need to be exemplars in promoting the health and well-being of their staff. By doing this, they support the NHS to play its key role in promoting public health.

I expect NHS organisations to take action to implement the recommendations in the Boorman report. They will be supported by national and regional action to ensure system incentives support delivery of the changes needed.

Dr. Boorman's report, "NHS health and well-being", and the Government's response have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. All related documents are also available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_108799

OLYMPICS

Government Olympic Executive Quarterly Economic Report

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's Quarterly Economic Report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Economic Report November 2009".

This report explains the latest budget position as at 30 September 2009, and outlines some of the many wider economic benefits to the UK.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games remain on time and within budget. The overall £9.325 billion public sector funding package for the London 2012 games remains unchanged. Within this there has been some movement in the anticipated final cost (AFC) of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) programme which, as of 30 September, was £7.241 billion compared to £7.234 billion at the end of the last quarter (30 June), against the maximum funding available of £8.1 billion. This is a consequence of the potential requirement for upgrading local facilities for games-time training venues and increases in cost pressures. Savings have also been made on areas including site preparations and logistics.

The majority of contingency remains unreleased and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) continues to make strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure in the Olympic park. The external structure of the main stadium is complete as is the roof structure of the aquatics centre.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are continuing to help businesses and people through the recession. More than 1,000 companies have won direct contracts from ODA worth more than £5 billion and, as of September 2009, a total of 7,270 people were working on the Olympic park and village. Ten per cent of these workers are undertaking a traineeship, apprenticeship or work placement.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in and support for the London 2012 games.

Copies of the "Quarterly Economic Report November 2009" are available at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

PRIME MINISTER

Informal European Council (Brussels)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I attended an informal meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 19 November with other EU leaders, in which we agreed unanimously the appointments to the posts of: President of the European Council; the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; and the Secretary-General of the Council.

Leaders agreed on the nominations of Herman van Rompuy as the first President of the European Council and Baroness Ashton as High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. She will also be vice-president of the European Commission and Head of the External Affairs Service. She will represent Europe on the world stage in international negotiations.

Leaders also agreed on the nomination of Pierre de Boissieu as the Secretary-General of the Council. The Secretary-General is the permanent official advising the new full-time President of the European Council on transition to the new working arrangements.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 November 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Chief Construction Adviser

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): The Department for Business Innovation and Skills, together with the Office of Government Commerce, is today announcing that Paul Morrell OBE will be appointed to the new role of Government Chief Adviser on Construction.

The Government Chief Construction Adviser is an independent role, but will report jointly to BIS and HM Treasury Ministers. The remit of the role includes:

chairing the new Construction Collaborative Category Board, which will build on the existing Public Sector Construction Clients Forum, to drive the implementation and further development of best value construction procurement;

leading the low carbon construction innovation and growth team that will assess the key barriers to growth in the UK's low carbon construction sector to ensure the UK industry is well placed to serve developing needs and markets;

chairing an enhanced sustainable construction strategy delivery board to help ensure policy regarding the industry is effectively co-ordinated;

working with the industry, through the Strategic Forum for Construction, to deliver the industry improvement agenda including the Construction Commitments;

promoting innovation in the sector, working closely with the Technology Strategy Board and other funding bodies; and

co-ordinating the Whitehall response to reports featuring construction.

Paul Morrell was previously senior partner of construction consultants Davis Langdon and also Deputy Chair of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' DEL will be increased by £19,906,781,000 from £1,922,920,000 to £21,829,701,000 as a consequence of the merger between the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The administration budget will be increased by £84,524,000 from £272,949,000 to £357,473,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource (£000)	-4,037,427	21,292,300	-3,515,015	22,354,754	18,839,739
of which					
Administration[1] budget	84,524		357,473		357,473
Near cash in Resource DEL[1]	-5,337,709	21,062,230	-4,937,070	22,105,386	17,168,316
Capital (£000)	-95,993	2,747,001	-486,854	3,476,816	2,989,962
Less Depreciation[3] (£000)	-5,112	-180,116	-59,448	-201,279	-260,727
Total (£000)	-4,138,532	23,860,085	-4,061,317	25,630,291	21,568,974

[1] The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £114,024,000 voted near cash and £317,335,000 of non-voted near cash in respect of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation and central programmes;

ii) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £3,762,000 voted depreciation and £7,829,000 other voted non cash and £168,000 non-voted depreciation and £23,000 of other non-voted non cash in respect of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation and central programmes;

iii) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £400,000 non-voted near cash and negative £400,000 non-voted non cash in respect of research establishments provisions;

iv) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £40,624,000 non-voted near cash in respect of the Departmental Unallocated Provision;

v) transfer of £1,027,000 voted DEL and £4,732,000 non-voted DEL from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of Business Link activities to tackle long-term unemployment;

vi) virement of £43,700,000 from non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision to voted expenditure in respect of the Automotive Scrappage Scheme;

vii) virement of £7,300,000 from voted Strategic Investment Fund capital expenditure to non-voted resource expenditure in respect of the Technology Strategy Board.

viii) virement of £2,500,000 from voted expenditure in respect of Business to non-voted Regional Development Agency expenditure;

ix) virement of £37,000,000 of non-voted expenditure from the Learning and Skills Council (RfR3) to Regional Development Agencies (RfR1) voted expenditure in respect of the Train to Gain programme;

x) virement of £1,700,000 from voted expenditure in respect of Business Link Marketing to non-voted Regional Development Agency expenditure;

xi) transfer of £2,629,000 from the Home Office in respect of Migration Impact Funding;

xii) virement of £138,000 from voted central programmes to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision.

Also within the change to resource DEL, the changes to the Administration budget are:

(RfR1)

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £69,299,000 voted near cash, £1,350,000 voted depreciation and £250,000 of other voted non cash;

ii) reclassification to administration from non-voted programme Departmental Unallocated Provision of £13,625,000.

RfR2

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £116,742,000 voted near cash and £2,732,835,000 of non-voted near cash in respect of Science programmes;

ii) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £138,960,000 non-voted depreciation and £54,600,000 other non-voted non cash in respect of Science programmes;

iii) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £27,332,000 non-voted near cash and £2,511,000 non-voted depreciation in respect of the Departmental Unallocated Provision;

iv) virement of £287,000 non-voted Departmental Unallocated provision to voted Research-Based Initiatives.

RfR3

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of a net negative £5,763,198,000 voted near cash and £18,038,714,000 of non-voted near cash in respect of Education programmes;

ii) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £1,331,730,000 other voted non cash and £16,624,000 non-voted depreciation and a net negative £27,024,000 of other non-voted non cash in respect of Education programmes;

iii) transfer of £24,073,000 from the Ministry of Justice in respect of prison education and offender learning;

iv) transfer of £222,000 from the Ministry of Justice in respect of Government Skills;

v) utilisation of £384,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for voted Government Skills;

vi) virement of £60,000 to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision from voted International programmes;

vii) virement of £10,000,000 to non-voted capital from non-voted resource in respect of the Learning and Skills Council;

viii) virement of £37,000,000 of non-voted expenditure from the Learning and Skills Council to the Regional Development Agencies (RfR1) voted expenditure in respect of the Train to Gain programme;

ix) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £6,211,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

x) increase in voted receipts for the Student Loans Company of £503,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, offset by an increase in the Student Loans Company non-voted resource DEL;

xi) increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England of £2,344,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, offset by an increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted resource DEL;

xii) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £1,300,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xiii) Increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England of £502,000 from the Department of Health, offset by an increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted resource DEL;

xiv) increase in voted receipts for Investors in People (IiP) of £70,000 from the Department of Health, offset by an increase in the Investors in People (IiP) non-voted resource DEL;

xv) increase in voted receipts for the Commission for Employment and Skills of £250,000 from the Cabinet Office, offset by an increase in the Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xvi) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £566,000 from the devolved Administration for Scotland, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xvii) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £373,000 from the devolved Administration for Wales, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xviii) increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £243,000 from the devolved Administration for Northern Ireland, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted resource DEL;

xix) virement of £24,943,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure relating to the Learning and Skills Council;

xx) virement of £374,000 from non-voted to voted expenditure relating to the Higher Education Funding Council for England;

xxi) virement of £1,260,000 from non-voted to voted expenditure relating to the Student Loans Company;

xxii) virement of £2,461,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure relating to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills;

xxiii) virement of £32,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure relating to the Sector Skills Development Agency;

xxiv) transfer of £400,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the College Sector.

The change in the Capital element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £14,131,000 voted and £10,080,000 non-voted in respect of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation and central programmes;

ii) virement of £2,500,000 from non-voted Regional Development Agency expenditure to voted expenditure in respect of British Shipbuilders;

iii) virement of £7,300,000 from voted Strategic Investment Fund expenditure to non-voted resource expenditure in respect of the Technology Strategy Board;

iv) transfer of £25,000,000 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change in respect of the Low Carbon Buildings programme;

v) transfer of £2,100,000 of non-voted expenditure from the Department of Energy and Climate Change in respect of the Fuel Cells and Hydrocarbon demonstration programme funded through the Technology Strategy Board;

vi) £18,000,000 increase in Small Firms Loan Guarantee expenditure (funded by a reduction in the non-voted RfR2 Departmental Unallocated Provision in part repayment of a loan made from non-Science to Science in 2007);

RfR2

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £47,676,000 voted and £644,053,000 non-voted in respect of Science programmes;

ii) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £175,840,000 non-voted in respect of the Departmental Unallocated Provision;

iii) virement of £2,000,000 non-voted Departmental Unallocated provision to voted expenditure by the British Academy;

iv) reduction of £18,000,000 in the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision in part repayment of a loan made from non-Science to Science in 2007 (utilised to fund increased RfR1 Small Firms Loan Guarantee expenditure);

v) reduction of £25,000,000 in the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision in part repayment of a loan made from non-Science to Science in 2007 (utilised to fund an RfR1 transfer to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the "Building Britain's Future" Housing Pledge).

RfR3

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of a net negative £198,000,000 voted and £1,953,328,000 non-voted in respect of Education programmes;

ii) virement of £10,000,000 to non-voted capital from non-voted resource in respect of the Learning and Skills Council.

TREASURY

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Subject to parliamentary approval of the winter supplementary estimate, HM Treasury's resource DEL will be increased by £15,000,000 from £215,747,000 to £230,747,000. The administration budget will be increased by £15,000,000 from £165,145,000 to £180,145,000 and the capital DEL will be reduced by £625,000,000 from £781,942,000 to £156,942,000. The impact on resources, including the administration budget, and capital is set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	18,631,000	-3,631,000	209,903,000	20,844,000	230,747,000
of which:					
*Administration budget**	*16,531,000*	*-1,531,000*	*180,145,000*	*-*	*180,145,000*
*Near cash in RDEL**	*18,631,000*	*-3,631,000*	*200,218,000*	*31,444,000*	*231,662,000*
Capital**	-625,000,000	-	154,800,000	2,142,000	156,942,000
Less: Depreciation***	-	-	-7,915,000	-	-7,915,000
Total	-606,369,000	-3,631,000	356,788,000	22,986,000	379,774,000

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net increase in resource DEL and the Administration Budget of £15,000,000 is the net effect of the take up of Administration Budget EYF in RfR 1 Section A to fund the costs of the increased workload arising from financial stability work.

There is a reduction in non-voted DEL of £3,631,000 due to the draw down of Departmental Unallocated Provision (£1,531,000 Administration Budget and £2,100,000 programme costs) to offset increased voted spending in RfR 1 Section A.

The capital DEL is being reduced by £625,000,000 following the revision of forecast spending in 2009-10 by the Infrastructure Finance Unit Ltd.

H M Revenue and Customs DEL (2009-10)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Subject to parliamentary approval of the supplementary estimate, the HM Revenue & Customs total DEL will be decreased by £253,820,000 from £4,317,670,000 to £4,063,850,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£ 000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-190,581	-38,387	3,677,851	351,337	4,029,188
Of which:					
Administration Budget*	-158,804	-42,585	3,957,886	-	3,957,886
Near-cash in RDEL*	-179,853	-38,387	3,356,397	385,485	3,741,882
Capital**	-9,522	-3,559	241,633	-	241,633
Less Depreciation***	-11,771	-	-206,971	-	-206,971
Total DEL	-211,874	-41,946	3,712,513	351,337	4,063,850

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*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises primarily from:

A reduction of £303,166,000 resource (of which £271,389,000 relates to administration costs) due to a Machinery of Government transfer from HMRC to the Home Office as part of the establishment of the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

The draw down of end year flexibility of £70,000,000 administration near cash in accordance with the Public Expenditure outturn White paper (CM 7606).

The take up of £42,585,000 non-voted departmental unallocated provision as voted administration near cash to facilitate improvements to key operational activities (this is DEL neutral).

A transfer of £4,198,000 near cash non-voted programme expenditure from the Ministry of Justice for work related to National Insurance benefits.

The change in the administration budget arises from the specific administration items detailed in the resource element above.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

A reduction of £13,081,000 capital due to a Machinery of Government transfer from HMRC to the Home Office as part of the establishment of the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

The take up of £3,559,000 non-voted departmental unallocated provision as voted capital to facilitate improvements to key operational activities (this is DEL neutral).

National Savings and Investments DEL (2009-10)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, National Savings and Investments DEL will be increased by £26,492,000 to £183,760,000. Within DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		*New Del*		*Total*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	
Resource Del:	26,492	-4,994	183,599	-	183,599
Of which:				-	
Administration budget:	26,492	-4,994	183,599	-	183,599
Near cash in RDEL	26,492	-4,994	179,104	-	179,104
Capital	-	-	3,176	-	3,176
Depreciation*	-	-	-3,015	-	-3,015
Total	26,492	-4,994	183,760	-	183,760

*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

A drawdown of £ 1,498,000 from the Modernisation Fund for the development and implementation of the IS strategy.

A drawdown of £20,000,000 of end year flexibility for continuation of modernisation programmes that commenced in 2008-09. These cover IS Infrastructure Programme, Strategic Platform Development Programme, Dematerialisation and Authentication.

A drawdown of its departmental unallocated provision of £4,994,000 to fund the simplification and modernisation programme.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): Subject to parliamentary approval of the winter supplementary estimate 2009-10, the Cabinet Office total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £17,068,000 from £377,081,000 to £394,149,000 and annually managed expenditure (AME) will be increased by £10,000 from £Nil to £10,000.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Main Estimate DEL*			*Changes*			*Winter Supplementary Estimate New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non Voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non Voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	324,540	36,875	361,415	+8,414	+8,140	+16,554	332,954	45,015	377,969
Of which									
Administration Budget	*207,833*	-	*207,833*	*-1,436*	-	*-1,436*	*206,397*	-	*206,397*
Near cash in RDEL	*279,762*	*36,875*	*316,637*	*+8,414*	*+8,140*	*+16,554*	*288,176*	*45,015*	*333,191*
Capital DEL**	49,471	1,000	50,471	+514	-	+514	49,985	- 1,000	50,985
*Depreciation**	*-34,805*	-	*-34,805*	-	-	-	*-34,805*	-	*-34,805*
Total DEL	339,206	37,875	377,081	+8,928	+8,140	+17,068	348,134	46,015	394,149
Resource AME	-	-	-	-	+10	+10	-	10	10

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Summary of Changes in DEL and AME

The change in the resource element of DEL, an increase of £16.554 million, comprises a £18 million agreed claim on the Reserve, £0.010 million transfer to AME as a result of the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), £0.942 million resulting from transfers of budgetary cover to other Government Departments and £0.494 million transfer to Capital DEL.

The change in the capital element of DEL, an increase of £0.514 million, comprises a £0.494 million transfer from Resource DEL and a £0.020 million budgetary cover transfer from another Government Department.

Changes in Resource DEL (RDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in Resource DEL (RDEL) of £16,554,000 are as follows:

Agreed Claim on the Reserve

A drawdown on the Reserve for the Grassroots Grant programme increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £18,000,000.

Budget cover transfers outwards

A transfer to the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) to cover costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel reduces Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by *£226,000.*

A transfer to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to cover costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel reduces Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by *£376,000.*

A transfer to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to cover work on community cohesion reduces Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by *£340,000.*

Transfers from Voted Resource to Capital DEL

Transfers from voted Resource to Capital DEL decreases Resource DEL by *£494,000* and consists of the following: a *£30,000* contribution towards the creation of a new Public Appointments Website, a *£14,000* contribution in respect of software for a secure communication network and a *£450,000* transfer to cover the expenditure on enhancing the computer system which supports Civil Service Pensions.

Transfer from Non-Voted Resource DEL to AME

A transfer of *£10,000* has been made from non-voted resource DEL to AME in respect of employee benefits for accrued holiday pay which is a cost resulting from the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Changes in Capital DEL (CDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in Capital DEL (CDEL) of *£514,000* are as follows:

Transfers from Voted Resource to Capital DEL

Transfers from voted Resource to Capital DEL increases Capital DEL by *£494,000* and consists of the following: a *£30,000* contribution towards the creation of a new Public Appointments Website, a *£14,000* contribution in respect of software for a secure communication network and a *£450,000* transfer to cover the expenditure on enhancing the computer system which supports Civil Service Pensions.

Budget cover transfer inwards

A transfer of *£20,000* has been made from the Government Equalities Office to contribute to the costs of a new Public Appointments Website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Children, Schools and Families Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £33,571,000 from £56,381,456,000 to £56,415,027,000; the administration cost budget will remain at £182,352,000. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) which has a separate Estimate and DEL, will remain at £192,881,000 with the administration cost budget remaining at £28,020,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

DCFS	*Resources*				*Capital****			
	Change	*New DEL*	*Of which: Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Change*	*New DEL*	*Of which: Voted*	*Non-voted*
	£'000	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*
RfFM	8,479	47,593,554	46,319,708	1,273,846	32,522	6,991,188	3,303,536	3,687,652
RfR2	-7,430	1,447,260	1,422,910	24,350	0	383,025	383,025	0
DCSF Total	1,049	49,040,814	47,742,618	1,298,196	32,522	7,374,213	3,686,561	3,687,652
OFSTED	0	191,900	178,385	13,515	0	981	981	0
Sub Total	*1,049*	*49,232,714*	*47,921,003*	*1,311,711*	*32,522*	*7,375,194*	*3,687,542*	*3,687,652*
***Of which Admin Budget*	*0*	*210,372*	*210,372*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
Near-cash in RDEL	*1,049*	*49,270,499*	*47,917,883*	*1,352,616*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
*Depreciation**	0	-12,385	-8,826	-3,559	0	0	0	0
Total	1,049	49,207,944	47,912,177	1,308,152	32,522	7,375,194	3,687,542	3,687,652

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

** The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

***Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Resource DEL

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £1,049,000 arises from an decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL of £28,340,000 and an increase of £29,389,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL mainly in the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Voted Resource DEL

The £28,340,000 decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

A movement of £4,500,000 from RfR2 for the National Strategies Early Years programmes.

A movement of £300,000 from RfR2 for Early Support e-profile.

A transfer to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £400,000 for the transfer of Crescent Purchasing to the College Sector.

A transfer to the Ministry of Justice of £291,000 for Implementation of the Children and Adoption Act.

A transfer to the Scottish Office of £228,000 for Child Trust Funds.

A movement of £24,441,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

RFR2

A transfer from the Department for Work and Pensions of £572,000 for Child Poverty programmes.

A movement of £4,500,000 to RfR1 in respect of National Strategies Early Years programmes.

A movement of £300,000 to RfR1 in respect of Early Support e-profile.

A movement of £3,202,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

A movement of £350,000 to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Non-voted resource DEL

The £29,389,000 increase in Non-voted resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

A transfer of £1,396,000 from the Home Office for the Migration Impact Fund.

A movement of £27,643,000 from voted resource to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

RFR2

A movement of £350,000 from voted resource to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Capital DEL

The increase in the capital element of the DEL of £32,522,000 arises from a £2,642,944,000 decrease in the voted element of capital DEL and an increase of £2,675,466,000 in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £2,642,944,000 decrease in the voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

A take-up of End Year Flexibility of £67,408,000 for Building Schools for the Future and Academy costs.

A reduction of £100,000,000 from RfR1 voted Capital Grants to Local Authorities for Building Britain's Future.

A movement of £2,610,352,000 from voted resource for Capital Grants to Local Authorities to support Schools to non-voted resource to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £2,675,466,000 increase in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

A take-up of End Year Flexibility of £65,114,000 to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies with Building Schools for the Future and Academy costs.

A movement of £2,610,352,000 from voted resource for Capital Grants to Local Authorities to support Schools to non-voted resource to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

There has been no change in overall DEL limits within the Winter Supplementary; however a movement of £10,000,000 from Non-Voted Departmental Unallocated Provision to Voted Resource has been made to cover increased expenditure on existing services.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2009-10 will change as follows:

The Department for Communities and Local Government's Main Programmes DEL will be increased by £554,164,000 from £13,118,891,000 to £13,673,055,000 and the administration budget will also be increased by £161,000 from £272,903,000 to £273,064,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-55,135	55,324	3,891,278	653,803	4,545,081
Of which					
Administration budget*	161	0	273,064	0	273,064
Near-cash in RDEL	-47,074	47,263	3,847,136	500,532	4,347,668
Capital**	-70,097	625,097	2,143,306	7,034,464	9,177,770
Depreciation***	-27	-998	-36,050	-13,746	-49,796
Total	-125,259	679,423	5,998,534	7,674,521	13,673,055

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) A net transfer of £1,135,000 to Request for Resources 2 (Local Government DEL) from Request for Resources 1 (Main DEL) comprising:

From RfR1 to RfR2

a) £200,000 from Implementing Planning Reforms to London Governance to fund the Mayor's new planning powers in the Greater London Authority Act 2007;

b) £1,432,000 from Fire and Rescue Services Improvement Programme to Best Value Inspection to pay the Audit Commission's bill in respect of work on 'Fire';

c) £76,000 from Efficient Geographic and Statistics to Best Value Inspection for secondment costs relating to the Data Inter Change Hub.

From RfR2 to RfR1

d) £573,000 from Local Government Research and Publicity, comprising of £500,000 for Cohesion Race and Equality to provide a more streamlined and effective research team and £73,000 for Main DEL Research for the new strategic research budget.

(ii) a net transfer of £1,943,000 from other Government Departments, comprising:

To other Government Departments

Programme Expenditure

(a) £233,000 to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for new burdens for the Environment Agency implementation of the Mine Waste Directive.

From other Government Departments

Programme Expenditure

(a) £1,396,000 from the Home Office in respect of their contribution to the

Migration Impact Fund;

Administration Costs (Government Offices)

(b) £340,000 from Cabinet Office to Government Offices for work on Community Cohesion;

(c) £440,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions to Government Offices for work on Older Persons agenda;

(iii) a decrease of £619,000 for Government Offices to reflect of technical accounting changes as a consequence of implementing International Financial Reporting Standards;

(iv) a net increase in receipts of £34,556,000 offsetting increases in provision of: £100,000 for the Residential Property Tribunal Service for Tribunal Hearing applications; £100,000 for Supporting People Administration; £600,000 for the Regeneration Strategy to help establish the National Worklessness Forum; £7,954,000 for Planning Inspectorate to fund projected spend; £250,000 for Fire and Rescue Services Improvement Programme to enable the Department to invoice the Fire Service College to recover subscription expenditure; £1,800,000 for Central Administration to fund outward secondments; and £23,752,000 for various Government Office programmes including £672,000 for technical changes in implementing the International Financial Reporting Standards.

(v) a net transfer of £55,324,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising:

From voted to non-voted provision

Programme Expenditure

(a) £3,953,000 to the newly formed Infrastructure Planning Commission from Implementing Planning Reforms (£3,661,000) and Planning Inspectorate (£292,000);

(b) £3,190,000 to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in respect of:

(i) Commitment in the "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: a National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society "(£140,000);

(ii) Planning Performance Agreements for Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Planning Applications (£300,000);

(iii) Rural master-planning (joint with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)(£250,000);

(iv) Advisory Team on Large Applications (ATLAS) (£2,500,000).

(c) £15,711,000 of uncommitted and available resources to the Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP), where it is available for other uses, from various programmes. These represent transfers from:

(i) Supporting People Administration (£3,280,000);

(ii) Regeneration Strategy (£600,000)

(iii) Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (£2,359,000);

(iv) National Register of Social Housing (£419,000)

(v) Regeneration Monitoring and Digital Inclusion (£2,000,000);

(vi) Efficient Geographic and Statistical Data (£4,581,000);

(vii) Planning Inspectorate (£2,472,000);

(d) £606,000 for West Northamptonshire Development Corporation comprising £400,000 to fund costs in respect of unfunded legal challenges on planning (£300,000 from New Deal for Communities and £100,000 from Valuation Office Agency) and £206,000 from Planning Inspectorate to cover cost of capital;

(e) £1,667,000 from Efficient Geographic and Statistical Data to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) budgets to cover the cost of taking over the maintenance and running of the National Register of Social Housing database which is to be transferred to the TSA;

(f) £18,206,000 transfer to Arms length bodies comprising £16,500,000 from Thames Gateway direct funding to Thames Gateway Development Corporations; £1,706,000 from Community Empowerment to the Community Development Foundation.

Administration costs - and Other Current

(g) £12,300,000 (near cash) from voted Government Offices (Other Current) to non-voted Government Offices to adjust budgets for utilisation of provisions in respect of early exit costs and

(h) £1,400,000 (non-cash) from Central Administration to non-voted Government Offices to correct the baseline provision of both pay and provision release;

From non-voted to voted provision

Programme Costs

(i) £309,000 drawn down from the Department Unallocated Provision (DUP) for the National Register of Social Housing Capital Plan;

Administration costs

(j) £1,400,000 (near cash) from non-voted Government Offices to voted Government Offices to correct the baseline provision of both pay and provision release;

The change in the administration budget arises from a transfer of £780,000 from other Government Departments (see above section (ii) and a decrease of £619,000 for the transition to International Financial Reporting Standards (see section (iii)).

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from

(vi) a transfer of £420,000,000 from other Government Departments to the Homes and Communities Agency towards the Housing Pledge. The Pledge was announced on 29 June as part of Building Britain's Future. This comprises £350,000,000 from Department for Transport; £25,000,000 from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and £45,000,000 from the Home Office.

(vii) £135,000,000 of funds brought forward from 2010-11 for the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of the Housing Pledge as announced on 29 June.

(viii) a net increase in receipts of £450,000 fully offset by increases in provision for the Fire and Rescue Services Improvement Programme. This relates to a short term working capital loan to the Fire Service College.

(ix) a net transfer of £70,097,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising

From voted to non-voted provision

(a) £70,000,000 from Thames Gateway direct expenditure to Thames Gateway Development Corporation;

(b) £1,800,000 from Planning Inspectorate to the Homes and Communities Agency to cover additional accommodation/IT costs incurred as a result of its set-up;

(c) £1,460,000 to a new Non Departmental Public Body, the Infrastructure Planning Commission from E-Planning (£450,000) and the Planning Inspectorate (£1,010,000).

From non- voted to voted provision

(d) £3,163,000 from Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure to Regional Housing Pot to assist with programme delivery in East Midlandsand South-East.

(2) *The Department for Communities and Local Government's Local Government DEL* will be increased by £60,150,000 from £25,700,995,000 to £25,761,145,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	961	174	25,479,000	118,051	25,597,051
Of which					
Administration budget *					
Near-cash in RDEL	961	189	25,479,000	116,961	25,595,961
Capital **	59,000	0	164,122	978	165,100
Depreciation***	0	15	0	-1,006	-1,006
Total	59,961	189	25,643,122	118,023	25,761,145

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) a net transfer of £1,135,000 from Request for Resources 1 (Main DEL) comprising (see above section l(i)).

(ii) an increase in receipts of £13,600,000 offsetting an increase in expenditure for Local Government Public Services Agreement repayment of capital grants to Local Authorities

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

(iii) a take up of End Year Flexibility of £59,000,000 to meet commitments for the Local Government Public Service Agreement Performance Fund.

Zero Carbon Standards (New Buildings)

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): The Government have recognised the serious global risks from climate change and have set in legislation a challenging target to reduce UK carbon emissions by 80 per cent. against 1990 levels by 2050. Emissions from the way we heat, cool and power buildings are important in achieving this target: 17 per cent. of UK emissions are from non-domestic buildings and 27 per cent. from homes. The scale of the challenge means that we need to find ways of reducing emissions from all types of building as part of the UK's transition to a low carbon economy.

I am today reaffirming the Government's commitment to the ambition for all new non-domestic buildings to be zero carbon from 2019, and publishing a consultation document that sets out policy principles and options for meeting this ambition. I am also setting out our plans for how new public sector buildings could lead the way, building on the work of a cross-departmental task force of government officials. We are seeking views on these options and their implications for viability for individual developments and sectors. The consultation closes on 26 February 2010.

This follows my statement in July, when I confirmed the Government's policy that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016 and announced further details on the definition and standards we will legislate for. One in three of Britain's homes in 2050 will be built between now and then. So today I am also providing an update on the definition and measurement of zero carbon homes, following the report of a specialist task group.

Zero carbon non-domestic buildings

In December 2008 we published a consultation on options to meet the definition of zero carbon, which included some initial thinking about what this could mean for non-domestic buildings. I am announcing today our more detailed proposals and the next steps needed to enable new commercial buildings to be zero carbon from 2019.

We will adopt the broad framework for zero carbon that has been developed for homes, but adapted appropriately to reflect the differences in the non-domestic buildings market and the variation between non-domestic buildings. This means that, as supported by responses to the 2008 consultation, we will be using the threefold hierarchy of energy efficiency, followed by onsite or linked low and zero carbon technologies ("carbon compliance"), followed by primarily offsite "allowable solutions".

The policy will also reflect the important differences in non-domestic buildings, including the much wider variation in building types, locations, and uses, which can impact on both potential solutions and costs. We are therefore proposing that new non-domestic buildings should improve through an approach with differentiated targets to reflect the different potential different buildings have for energy efficiency and for onsite levels of carbon abatement. The consultation seeks views on this approach.

Non-domestic buildings often have greater potential for onsite renewables (for example, more roof space) and to play a central role in the viability of community heat or energy networks. We need to determine the extent to which we encourage use of these opportunities.

and the consultation covers these questions. Onsite heat and energy generation will also be eligible for financial assistance under Government incentive schemes for small-scale renewable generation, providing future income streams.

Any carbon not mitigated onsite will be dealt with through a range of good quality 'allowable solutions'. We are proposing that we will bring in some allowable solutions from 2016, alongside the approach for homes, and thus develop a single system for delivery and assurance. This early deployment could help to increase the volume and therefore viability of the allowable solutions market in its early years, and could increase the opportunities for non-domestic developments to contribute to community energy solutions. I have said that I will make a further announcement later about the allowable solutions that will be included.

For non-domestic buildings, the variation in energy uses is considerably greater than for homes—reflecting the range of different uses for individual building types as well as the range of energy-intensity of different commercial activity. As a minimum, the zero carbon standard for non-domestic buildings will include 100 per cent. of energy uses currently covered by the Building Regulations (principally space heating, cooling and internal lighting). We are considering in addition a simplified way of accounting for ongoing energy use in the building (such as machinery, refrigeration, or computers), through requiring either 10 or 20 per cent. extra improvement on top of regulated energy. The consultation seeks views on this and its potential impact on market viability.

The public sector can play a significant role in supporting market development of low and zero carbon buildings. We confirm our ambition from Budget 2008 that the public sector should aim to make the move to zero carbon for new non-domestic buildings by 2018, one year ahead of commercial buildings. The consultation sets out our proposals for a work programme to deliver this.

I have placed a copy of the consultation document and the detailed impact assessment that accompanies it in the Library of the House.

Zero carbon homes

I announced in July that I would set up a specialist task group to examine the energy efficiency metrics and standards that should be part of zero carbon homes, in order to realise our ambition for the highest practical energy efficiency level realisable in all dwelling types.

Following an intensive period of analysis and wider involvement of industry, commercial and environmental bodies, the task group has now reported to me. I am grateful to the task group for their excellent work and am placing a copy of their report in the Library of the House.

The recommendations are for an energy standard that is measured as the amount of energy required to provide space heating and cooling. The proposed standard is 46 kilowatt-hours per square metre per year (kWh/m^2/year) for semi-detached and detached homes and 39 kWh/m^2/year for all other homes. The further details of what that means are set out in the task group's report.

I am satisfied that the task group's recommendations strike the right balance between a high level of ambition and a standard that can be realised in practice by 2016. I therefore intend to use this standard within the definition of zero carbon homes. I will be using our forthcoming consultation on updating the Code for Sustainable Homes to check that there are no unintended consequences from this standard and to seek views on the energy efficiency standard to be adopted in 2013. By aligning our approach to energy efficiency and zero carbon within the Code, we will smooth the transition to zero carbon homes in 2016.

The task group has made a number of additional recommendations for further research and modelling to support the proposed energy standard. I shall be taking these recommendations forward, in collaboration with the Zero Carbon Hub and other relevant research and industry bodies. One of the particular recommendations is that industry will need design guidance to support the standard. I recognise that industry will need such guidance and will work with industry to produce this.

I can also announce that the Government-funded Technology Strategy Board is allocating £3.2 million of funding to boost long-term research into how we design and build low carbon homes. The research will use new technologies and materials to provide valuable evidence for future standards and how to drive down energy bills. This funding is part of the Technology Strategy Board's £50 million Low Impact Buildings Innovation Platform, which is being allocated to projects in the period to 2011. The money will be used by a consortium—including Barratt Developments, Crest Nicholson, Stewart-Milne, H + H Celcon, Oxford Brookes University and the Building Research Establishment—to build demonstration homes.

These homes will be built without the use of on-site renewables so as to test just how far it is possible to go towards zero carbon through energy efficient fabric measures alone and the implications of doing so. Having designed and built the homes, they will be monitored to find out the energy savings that occupants realise in practice and to learn more about the occupants' experience of living in highly energy efficient homes. The lessons we learn from these homes will be valuable evidence to support the way that the zero carbon homes of the future are built.

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): The Government have today published the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans on 16 July 2009".

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjul2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £85,705,000 from £1,974,663,000 to £2,060,368,000 and the administration budget will increase by £6,926,000 from £48,207,000 to £55,133,000. Within the DEL change the impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

Departmental Expenditure Limits and Administration Budgets

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	9,696	-1,491	103,335	1,585,502	1,688,837
of which					
Administration budget'	*6,926*		*55,133*		*55,133*
Near-cash in RDEL	*9,696*	-1,491	*93,956*	1,357,881	*1,451,837*
Capital''	*585*	76,915	*-784,204*	1,266,104	*481,900*
Less Depreciation'''		1,631	*-6,405*	-103,964	*-110,369*
Total	*10,281*	77,055	*-687,274*	2,747,642	*2,060,368*

'The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping

''Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

'''Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Take-up of £7,179,000 End Year flexibility comprising: (£3,000,000) UK Film; (£879,000) Central DCMS Invest to Save Budget (ISB); and £3,300,000 Administration budget.

Transfers from other Government Departments of: £800,000 from Department for International Development for International Inspirations; and £226,000 from Cabinet Office to cover baseline costs of the Parliamentary Counsel.

The administration cost limit has increased by £6,926,000 from £48,207,000 to £55,133,000. This is as a result of a transfer from Cabinet Office of £226,000 detailed above; take-up of £3,300,000 Administration End Year Flexibility and an agreed transfer of £3,400,000 from programme to administration costs.

The capital element of the DEL has increased by £77,500,000 reflecting take-up of End Year Flexibility by the Olympic Delivery Authority.

DEFENCE

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Defence Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) will be increased by £176,772,000 (Voted and Non Voted) from £39,419,339,000 to £39,596,111,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000s

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	295,792	32,980	38,687,508	223,445	38,910,953
Of which Administration Budget	-	-	*2,237,737*	-	*2,237,737*
Near-cash in RDEL	*34,792*	*32,980*	*26,371,391*	*424,925*	*26,796,316*
Capital	-71,000	-	9,048,789	851	9,049,640
Depreciation'	-81,000	-	-8,354,962	-9,520	-8,364,482
Total	143,792	32,980	39,381,335	214,776	39,596,111

'Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

to transfer £100,000,000 capital resource to direct resource within RfR1 relating to single use military equipment (SUME) flexibility with no overall impact on DEL;

a transfer in from the Department for Transport of £500,000 in respect of funding arrangements for the Royal Flight (RfR1);

transfers out to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office being the MOD's contribution to the Afghanistan delivery group of £6,500,000 (RfR1); transfers out to the Department for International Development of £500,000 being the MOD's contribution to the tri-department stabilisation unit (RfR1) and £6,729,000 being the MOD's contribution to the conflict pool (enabled by a token increase of £1,000 resource DEL in RfR2);

an increase in fiscal capital resource of £17,000,000 to reflect the abatement of the MOD 2008-09 Treasury fine, which resulted from a smaller overspend than originally forecasted;

an increase in fiscal capital resource of £15,000,000 to reflect treasury relief for lower capital receipts in Northern Ireland than originally forecasted;

an increase of £20,000,000 resource DEL (funded from our 2008-09 end year flexibility stock) to reflect the Government decision to negate the impact of the planned MOD training costs 2009-10 budget reduction for the Territorial Army (RfR1);

to reflect the estimated net resource (near cash and indirect cost) impact of the third stage of the international financial reporting standards for leases relating to Annington Homes (IAS 17) of £222,000,000;

to reflect the estimated net capital resource (near cash) impact of the third stage of the international financial reporting standards for leases relating to Annington Homes (IAS 17) being a reduction of £3,000,000;

to increase non-budget grants in aid (non-voted) for the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association of £31,700,000; £180,000 for the National Army Museum; and £1,100,000 for the Royal Hospital, Chelsea ; by reducing resource DEL current costs and increasing non-budget grants in aid with no overall impact on resource;

to revise sub-head provisions to reflect resource and capital revisions in allocations between top level budget-holders to match required defence outputs, with no overall impact on DEL.

The changes to resource DEL and capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £38,501,000.

Supplementary Estimate (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The Ministry of Defence votes A Supplementary Estimate 2009-10, will be laid before the House on 24 November as HC7. This outlines the change in the maximum numbers of personnel to be maintained for service in the Naval Service during financial year 2009-10.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department of Energy and Climate Change Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will decrease by £22,700,000 from £3,125,377,000 to £3,102,677,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	Non-Voted	Voted	Non-Voted	Total
Resource DEL	39,044	-39,044	-704,781	1,809,944	1,105,163
Of which:					
Administration Budget *	-	-	93,512	-	93,512
Near Cash in Resource DEL *	39,044	-39,044	-728,313	1,854,438	1,126,125
Capital DEL **	-144,129	121,429	682,201	1,322,404	2,004,605
Less Depreciation ***	-	-	-2,987	-4,104	-7,091
Total DEL	-105,085	82,385	-25,567	3,128,244	3,102,677

*The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table above, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource DEL

The Resource element of the DEL remains unchanged with an increase in the voted element of Resource DEL of £39,044,000 offset by a decrease of £39,044,000 in the non-voted element of Resource DEL.

Voted resource DEL

The £39,044,000 increase in the voted element of Resource DEL arises from:

a decrease of £34,043,000 in nuclear decommissioning authority operating appropriations-in-aid

a transfer from non-voted Resource DEL of £5,001,000.

Non-voted Resource DEL

The £39,044,000 decrease in non-voted Resource DEL arises from:

a decrease of £34,043,000 in nuclear decommissioning authority DEL offsetting the reduction in appropriations-in-aid

a transfer to voted Resource DEL of £5,001,000.

Capital DEL

The decrease in the Capital element of the DEL of £22,700,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of Capital DEL of £144,129,000 and an increase of £121,429,000 in the non-voted element of Capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £144,129,000 decrease in the voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

a transfer from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of £4,400,000 for Anaerobic digestion

a transfer to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £25,000,000 for the UK Innovation Investment Fund

a transfer to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for the Technology Strategy Board of £2,100,000 for the fuel cells and hydrogen demonstration programme

a transfer from non-voted Capital DEL of £170,000

an increase of £121,599,000 in nuclear decommissioning authority non-operating appropriations-in-aid.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £121,429,000 increase in the non-voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

a transfer to voted Capital DEL of £170,000

an increase of £121,599,000 in nuclear decommissioning authority DEL offsetting the increase in non-operating appropriations-in-aid.

OFGEM DEL (2009-10)

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Office of Gas and Electricity Market's DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £651,000 to £652,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000 from £701,000 to £702,000.

New DEL

£'000

	Change	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource DEL	1	702	0	702
Of which: *	1	702	0	702
Administration budget Near-cash in RDEL	1	-93	700	607
Near-cash in RDEL	1	-93	700	607
Capital DEL**	0	950	0	950
Depreciation	0	-1000	0	-1000
Total	1	652	0	652

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from a token increase in administration costs. The token increase is necessary to bring to Parliament's attention an increase in administration costs of £4,001,000 offset by an increase in appropriations in aid of £4,000,000. The increase in administration costs is as a result of additional unplanned expenditure on administration of the Smart Meter project, and the offshore transmission tender process.

There is no change in the capital element of the DEL.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Dan Norris): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs DEL will be reduced by £4,566,000 (0.14 per cent.) from £3,153,699,000 to £3,149,133,000. The Administration Budget remains unchanged at £304,296,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000s

	Change			New DEL		
	Voted	Non-voted	Total	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource	-1,258	1,633	375	4,001,027	-1,292,020	2,709,007
of which:						
Administration Budget	-	-	-	*304,296*	-	*304,296*
Near-cash in Resource DEL	*-1,258*	*1,633*	*375*	*3,748,889*	*-1,375,314*	*2,373,575*
Capital	-4,400	-	-4,400	270,376	394,139	664,515
Depreciation*	-541	-	-541	-125,270	-99,119	-224,389
Total	-6,199	1,633	-4,566	4,146,133	-997,000	3,149,133

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL of £375,000 arises from (i) a transfer of £233,000 programme spend from the Department for Communities and Local Government for an inventory of former mining waste sites in England; (ii) 'Need it/Build it' Invest to Save Budget (ISB) of £142,000.

There has also been a transfer within the resource element of the DEL of £1,633,000 from voted to non-voted. This relates to budget transfers from the core Department (voted) to the Departments Non Departmental Public Bodies (non-voted).

The change in the capital element of the DEL of -£4,400,000 arises from a transfer of £4,400,000 to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

The change in the depreciation budget of -£541,000 relates to the creation of the Food and Environment Research Agency.

(Ofwat): Capital End of Year Flexibility Draw Down

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): Subject to parliamentary approval of HM Treasury agreement to capital end of year flexibility draw down in 2009-10, the capital element of DEL (CDEL) will increase by £80,000.

Resource DEL (RDEL) remains at £1,000 representing the 'token vote'; no additional cash requirement is required.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

		New DEL		£'000
	Change	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource DEL	0	1	0	1
of which:				
Administration budget*	0	1	0	1
Near cash in DEL	0	-234	0	-234
Capital **	80	[illegible]80	0	480
Depreciation***	0	-189	0	-189
Total	80	292	0	292

*The total of the 'administration budget' and 'near cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation., which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Changes in Capital DEL (CDEL)

The change in the capital element of DEL of £80,000 arises in a claim on capital end of year flexibility to cover the cost of Phase 2 of the new telephone switch system.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sanctions Regimes

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The Government are committed to keeping Parliament informed of the sanctions regimes which the UK implements. Currently the UK implements United Nations sanctions in relation to Al Qaida and the Taliban, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and in relation to terrorism as laid out in UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

The UK also implements sanctions regimes imposed autonomously by the EU in relation to Belarus, Burma, China, the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (in connection with individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia or responsible for certain acts of violence at Mostar), Guinea, the Transnistrian region of Moldova, and Zimbabwe.

In accordance with a decision of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the UK implements arms embargoes on Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Government also take full account of the economic community of West African states moratorium on certain exports of small arms and light weapons to economic community of West African states members.

A document listing the sanctions regimes and restrictive measures implemented by the UK is being laid in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/what-we-do/services-we-deliver/business-services/export-controls-sanctions/. This document outlines the restrictive measures in place and includes objectives and lift criteria for each regime.

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £104,995,000 from £2,141,898,000 to £2,246,893,000. The administration budget will be increased by £6,500,000 from £420,345,000 to £426,845,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change £000		New DEL £000		
	Voted	Non-voted	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource	121,745	-17,000	2,130,633	3,000	2,133,633
Of which:					
Administration budget*	23,500	-17,000	426,845	–	426,845
Near-cash in Resource DEL	81,745	-17,000	1,920,579	16,000	1,936,579

	Change £000		*New DEL £000*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Capital**	250	–	216,310	–	216,310
Depreciation ***	–	–	-103,050	–	-103,050
Total	121,995	-17,000	2,243,893	3,000	2,246,893

* The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Request for Resources 1

Administration

I. An increase of £4,500,000 administration costs in respect of the impact of the adoption of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) on FCO capital charges (non-cash).

II. An increase of £2,000,000 administration costs in respect of take-up of end-year flexibility (EYF) for FCO capital charges (non-cash).

Programme

I. An increase of £22,500,000 other current costs in respect of the impact of the adoption of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) on FCO capital charges (non-cash).

II. An increase of £11,000,000 other current costs in respect of take-up of end-year flexibility (EYF) for FCO capital charges (non-cash).

III. A claim on the Resource DEL Reserve of £8,000,000 other current in respect of modernisation of the FCO Corporate Services.

IV. A transfer of £6,000,000 other current programme from DfID in respect of the returns and reintegration fund.

V. A Transfer of £500,000 other current programme to DfID in respect of the stabilisation unit.

Capital

I. A transfer of £250,000 capital from DfID in respect of New Delhi shared accommodation.

Request for Resources 2

Programme

I. A transfer of £15,465,000 grants from DfID in respect of stabilisation and conflict prevention.

II. A transfer of £14,000,000 grants from MoD in respect of stabilisation and conflict prevention.

III. A transfer of £11,500,000 grants from DfID in respect of the Helmand uplift for stabilisation and conflict prevention.

IV. A transfer of £6,500,000 grants from MoD in respect of the Helmand uplift for stabilisation and conflict prevention.

V. A claim on the Resource DEL Reserve of £3,430,000 grants in respect of take-up of balance of peacekeeping funds.

VI. A transfer of £1,500,000 grants from DfID in respect of stabilisation and conflict prevention in Sri Lanka.

VII. A transfer of £1,150,000 grants to the security and intelligence agencies in respect of expansion and capability.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) was held on 16/17 November in Brussels. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development, my noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for international defence and security, Baroness Taylor and I represented the UK. The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

The full text of Conclusions adopted, including 'A' points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/111231.pdf

Preparation of the 10-11 December European Council

The European Council will focus on economic and financial issues, climate change and external issues. The Government are broadly content with the Presidency's draft agenda.

On economic and financial issues, I noted the importance of addressing the issues of most concern to citizens, especially jobs and economic growth. I also said that the UK was in favour of more and better international financial supervision so long as this protected the fiscal autonomy of member states.

Ministers' discussion of climate change focussed on the Copenhagen conference on 7-18 December. The Presidency concluded that the EU position remained as agreed by Heads at the October European Council.

On external relations, the UK suggested that Iran should be added to the European Council agenda.

19 November informal European Council

The Presidency set out their plans for the informal European Council on 19 November, which has since taken decisions on the new president of the European Council and high representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Post-2010 Lisbon Strategy

The Commission introduced a reflection paper on the future of the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth after 2010. The paper set out four priorities: creating value by basing growth on knowledge; empowering people and fighting exclusion; creating a competitive greener economy; and making Europe mobile and connected. The paper proposed that the European Council should steer the strategy and set objectives, and the Commission should undertake a yearly review of progress. The Presidency sought views on these ideas.

I noted the need to draw a line under the process of treaty reform so that the Union could address the issues of most concern to citizens across Europe, namely jobs, competitiveness with emerging economies and individual economic opportunities. Member states needed to address these issues in a united fashion, maintaining the fiscal stimulus until such time as growth was established. I said that the Government supported the Commission's paper, except for two points: we wanted it to emphasise more clearly the need to open markets yet further and to avoid protectionism; and to promote and deepen the single market.

The Presidency concluded that they would take Ministers' comments into account in the formulation of the December European Council conclusions, and looked forward to finalisation of the strategy under the Spanish Presidency.

EU Sustainable Development Strategy

The Presidency invited member states to consider which areas should be priorities for the future of the sustainable development strategy, and how implementation and monitoring of the strategy could be improved. The Commission confirmed that four priorities had emerged since their communication was published in July: the move to a low carbon, low input economy; protection of biodiversity, water and other natural resources; social inclusion; and the international dimension.

The Presidency concluded that it would take Ministers' views into account in its preparations for the December European Council. The Government welcome the sustainable development strategy, and wants to ensure that it is well-coordinated with other EU strategies such as the Lisbon strategy.

External Relations

The full text of all Conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/111287.pdf

Afghanistan

The special representative of the UN Secretary General, Kai Eide, briefed Ministers on the situation while underscoring the challenges and need for a greater sense of shared priorities amongst the international community. The UK has reiterated its offer to use London as a venue for a possible international conference on Afghanistan.

Russia

The Presidency ran through the issues for the EU-Russia Summit on 18-19 November. I stressed that it was important to maintain a regular and respectful dialogue with Russia, but that the EU should be robust in defending its interests and speaking with one voice to send clear messages. Following a wide-ranging discussion, the Presidency concluded that the priorities for the Summit were: climate change, energy, WTO/trade issues, human rights and the common neighbourhood.

Ukraine

The Presidency said that at the EU-Ukraine Summit on 4 December they would urge Ukraine: to get the IMF Programme back on track; to ensure funding mechanisms were in place to pay its gas bills; to conduct free and fair Presidential elections; and as soon as possible to undertake constitutional reform. I stressed the need to push Ukraine hard on compliance with the conditions attached to the IMF programme.

MEPP

High Representative Solana briefed Ministers on the latest state of play on the region. The Presidency said the EU needed to continue working on how it could practically support a settlement, in case prospects improved, and continue to support the Fayyad Plan. The Government broadly support the Presidency's approach.

Somalia

The Presidency dropped this item from the external relations agenda. However, EU Defence Ministers did discuss Somalia at their informal meeting, as reported below.

AOB: European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) civilian capabilities

The Presidency emphasised that the development of civilian capabilities was of critical importance to ESDP and to the EU's ability to operate as a global actor. The Government strongly support this position.

AOB: Belarus

Latvia debriefed ministers on a recent visit to Minsk, and concluded that the EU should continue to monitor the behaviour of the Belarusian authorities, and assess its policy on the basis of progress against agreed human rights benchmarks. Ministers adopted conclusions, which the Government broadly welcomes, prolonging restrictive measures against certain officials until October 2010 while suspending the visa ban for the same period.

Joint Session of EU Foreign and Defence Ministers

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH): Operation Althea

The Presidency updated ministers on the current EU/US 'Butmir' initiative to increase the pace of reform in BiH, and said that the political situation was likely to remain tense throughout the current talks and the elections in Autumn 2010. In this context, the Presidency introduced a discussion of the future of EUFOR Operation Althea by setting out the options available. The Presidency concluded that it was too early to take a decision, but that Ministers would return to the issue at the December GAERC. The Government continue to support the ongoing presence of EUFOR in BiH.

ESDP

Foreign and Defence Ministers agreed a declaration marking the tenth anniversary of ESDP and a wide-ranging set of conclusions, which the Government support, including on EUFOR Operation Althea, a possible Somalia training mission (see below), civilian capability development, and EU/NATO defence planning coherence.

Informal meeting with NATO Secretary General

Foreign and Defence Ministers held an informal session with NATO Secretary General Rasmussen, focusing on Afghanistan. Rasmussen stressed the need to focus on a gradual transfer of responsibility to the Afghans; to hold the new Afghan government to account; and to increase European efforts to match those of the US.

Joint Session of EU Foreign and Development Ministers

Afghanistan and democracy support in EU external relations

The special representative of the UN Secretary General, Kai Eide, took part in this session. Ministers highlighted Afghanistan as an example of the need for a more coordinated and coherent EU approach to democracy support for third countries, which the Government strongly support, using all available EU instruments. All member states agreed on the need to respect and build Afghan ownership for development and democracy building. Eide urged the EU not to impose solutions but to work towards Afghanistan's own priorities of agriculture and rural development, infrastructure and education.

The UK emphasised the importance of involving regional players, and argued that the approach needed to be fully comprehensive so as to deliver security for the EU alongside benefits to the Afghan people.

Meeting of EU Defence Ministers

Defence Ministers, meeting in their capacity as the European Defence Agency (EDA) steering board, agreed: the EDA budget for 2010; the launch of a European helicopter training programme; a Letter of Intent on a European Air Transport Fleet (which the UK and some other member states did not sign); and a declaration on a level playing field for the European defence equipment market, which the Government support. High representative Solana also gave a report on EDA activities.

Defence Ministers discussed Somalia during an informal meeting. Operation Commander Rear Admiral Hudson (Royal Navy) briefed on Operation Atalanta's continuing success against pirates, explaining that while there were still some successful attacks, the majority of the vessels affected had failed to follow best practice for self-protection. Ministers commended the operation. My noble Friend Baroness Taylor said that the UK remained committed to Atalanta and to providing the operation HQ for 2010.

High representative Solana stressed the urgency of helping Somalia's transitional Federal Government by training its security forces in close coordination with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the US. The Commission made clear its commitment to supporting a possible training mission with a contribution to costs. Some member states offered to contribute personnel and lead the mission. My noble Friend Baroness Taylor said there should be no illusions about the challenges of working in the region; before making a final decision on the mission, we needed the key questions to be properly answered.

Ministers also had a general discussion of implementation of the ESDP-related provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.

MEETING OF EU DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

The UK secured Development Ministers' support for our proposals for the Commission to take on a strengthened role in monitoring official development assistance (ODA) performance and for the European Council to monitor EU ODA on a regular basis. The UK strongly emphasised the importance of additionality of climate finance over ODA, and secured agreement that Ministers would revert to this issue next year.

Ministers also discussed how to achieve progress on the EU's commitments on aid effectiveness, and agreed an operational framework to that end in conclusions. Other items discussed were policy coherence for development, on which the Spanish Presidency and Commission briefed on the forthcoming work programme; and budget support, on which Ministers discussed the need for a future dialogue on a coordinated EU approach

"A" Points

The Council adopted conclusions or decisions, without discussion, on:

Council Conclusions on an Integrated Maritime Policy

Council Conclusions on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Conclusions on Democracy Support

Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development

A Council Decision on conclusion of an agreement with Russia on exchange of classified information

Conclusions on the use of EU Battlegroups

Conclusions forwarding the application by the Republic of Albania for membership of the European Union to the Commission for an avis

Conclusions on Belarus highlighting prolongation of the restrictive measures in place against certain officials until October 2010 and suspension of the visa-ban for the same period

Draft Council guidelines for the European Defence Agency's work in 2010

Approval of the European Defence Agency budget

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 30 November-1 December. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council will be taken on 1 December.

Items on the main agenda are:

patients' rights in cross border healthcare;

incentives for effective antibiotics, e-health;

the three aspects of the pharmaceutical package (proposals to reduce the threat from counterfeit medicines, strengthening of community pharmacovigilance and information on prescription medicines to patients);

alcohol and health;

smoke-free environments;

seasonal influenza vaccination and information from the presidency and the Commission on pandemic H1N1 following the Council meeting on 12 October, together with a discussion on lessons learnt on H1N1 preparedness and future challenges faced.

The presidency propose to ask Ministers to reach political agreement on the directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. The presidency also proposes to adopt Council conclusions on innovative incentives for effective antibiotics, safe and efficient healthcare through e-health and alcohol and health. They also propose to adopt a Council recommendation on smoke-free environments. The UK can support the adoption of these proposals.

Although the main agenda currently proposes the adoption of a recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination, this is still at an early stage in negotiation and we anticipate that adoption at this forthcoming Council will not be possible.

Under any other business, information will be provided from the presidency on a directive on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation. Information will also be provided on Commission Communications on cancer, combating HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries and reducing health inequalities in the EU.

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): Subject to the necessary Supplementary Estimates, the Department of Health's element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will increase by £14,089,000 from £105,335,865,000 to £105,349,954,000. The Administration Cost Limit remains unchanged at £213,765,000. The Food Standards Agency DEL increases by £1,000 from £134,986,000 to £134,987,000. The overall DEL including the Food Standards Agency will increase by £14,090,000 from £105,470,851,000 to £105,484,941,000. The impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

Department of Health	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted £m	*Non-voted £m*	*Voted £m*	*Non-voted £m*	*Total £m*
Revenue DEL, of which	870.364	-684.275	100,428,953	-1,469,853	98,959,100
*Administration Budget**	-	-	*213.765*	-	*213.765*
Near-cash in Revenue DEL	870.364	-684.275	99,870,004	-399,113	99,470,891
Capital DEL	-	-172.000	2,638,505	2,762,349	5,400,854
Total Department of Health DEL	870.364	-856.275	103,067,458	1,292,496	104,359,954
Depreciation**	-	-	-941,003	-67,744	-1,008,747
Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment)	870.364	-856.275	102,126,455	1,224,752	103,351,207
Food Standards Agency					
Revenue DEL, of which	0.001	-	134.371	-	134.371
*Administration Budget**	*0.001*	-	*40.994*	-	*40.994*
Near-cash in Revenue DEL	*0.001*	-	*131.000*	-	*131.000*
Capital DEL	-	-	0.616	-	0.616
Total Food Standards Agency DEL	0.001	-	134.987	-	134.987
Depreciation**	-	-	-1.908	-	-1.908
Total Food Standards Agency spending (after adjustment)		-	133.079	-	133.079

* The total of "administration budget" and "Near cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater that the total resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
**Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.
(d)
* The total of "administration budget" and "Near cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater that the total resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has increased by £14,089,000 made up of:

£60,000 for additions to Invest to Save Budget awards;

a net transfer of £12,633,000 from the Ministry of Justice mainly for prison healthcare services;

a transfer of £1,396,000 from the Home Office as the Department's share of a contribution to the migration impact fund; and

a transfer of £172,000,000 from Capital DEL to Revenue DEL as a result of the budgeting treatment of some pandemic flu items.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit remains unchanged at £213,765,000.

The change to the Food Standards Agency element of the DEL is due to a token increase in FSA resource administration cost of £1,000 to allow for an increase in the net cash requirement and additional appropriations in aid.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Violence Against Women

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am pleased to announce that on Wednesday 25 November, the international day for the elimination of violence against women, I am launching a cross-Government strategy to address violence against women and girls.

In recent years much has been achieved to increase protection for women and to prosecute their attackers. However, the strategy will be the first comprehensive, co-ordinated effort to tackle this form of gender-based violence, integrating work from across government under the headings of prevention, provision and protection.

The Government recognise that the complexity of this issue demands not only a firm criminal justice response, but focused measures to stop violence from happening in the first place while ensuring that appropriate help and support for women and girls is available to those who need it. To deliver these commitments we will continue to work closely with local partners to achieve our goal of ending violence against women.

Resident Labour Market Test

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am announcing today that, from 14 December 2009, employers wishing to recruit a migrant under Tier 2 of the points-based system will first need to advertise to jobseekers in the UK for four weeks. This strengthens the current requirement to advertise jobs for two weeks, or one week for jobs over £40,000.

Since April this year, the resident labour market test (RLMT) has included a requirement to advertise skilled jobs in Jobcentre Plus, so that resident workers have a single source—their local job centre—to access all skilled vacancies.

This change was proposed by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) in their Tier 2 report which was published on 19 August, a copy of which can be found in the House Library. On 7 September the Home Secretary announced that the Government have accepted the recommendations put forward in the report in full.

The Prime Minister announced, in his speech on immigration on 12 November, that the strengthening of the resident labour market test would be introduced quickly, to better support resident workers looking for skilled jobs.

The flexibility of the points-based system allows us to support UK workers and at the same time meet the recruitment needs of businesses and to support the economy. In making this change, we are using that flexibility to support businesses in two ways:

First, we will only apply this change to advertising campaigns that start on or after 14 December. Businesses that have already run advertisements will not need to do so again to meet the new requirement.

Secondly, while we will require all jobs to be advertised for four weeks before a migrant worker can be appointed, we will not require the four weeks to be continuous. This will mean that businesses will not need to advertise all their vacancies for four weeks on the off-chance that no suitable resident workers apply and they need to recruit a migrant worker. For example, we will allow businesses to advertise skilled jobs for two weeks initially. If a suitable resident worker applies, the business can appoint them straight away. However, if no suitable resident workers apply, the resident labour market must be tested for a further two weeks before they can appoint a migrant worker.

The other changes to Tier 2 recommended by the MAC will be implemented in spring 2010.

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Home Office's departmental expenditure limits for 2009-10 will be increased by £265,493,000 from £9,976,727,000 to £10,242,220,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £271,389,000 from £404,151,000 to £675,540,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	20,584	233,406	8,542,585	1,065,769	9,608,354
Of which:					
*Administration budget**	115,556	155,833	487,410	188,130	675,540
*Near-cash in RDEL**	9,120	234,232	8,377,062	1,023,065	9,400,127
Capital**	(10,819)	18,990	537,261	280,820	818,081
Less depreciation***	2,683	649	(128,891)	(55,324)	(184,215)
Total	12,448	253,045	8,950,955	1,291,265	10,242,220

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

(a)	*Total*	*o/w near Cash*	*o/w Admin*
The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:	253,990	243,352	271,389
Machinery of Government changes:	303,160	292,430	271,389
The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) was transferred to the Home Office on 1 April 2009. The specific changes relating to this machinery of Government transfer from HM Revenue and Customs are:			
UK Border Agency (section E)	302,660	291,930	270,889
Central Services (section G)	500	500	500
Transfers from other Government Departments:	400	400	0
Programme from the Ministry of Justice to Police (section A) for the British Crime Survey.	400	400	
Transfers from other Government Departments:	(49,575)	(49,575)	0
Programme from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to the Department for Communities and Local Government's affordable housing programme "Building Britain's Future".	(40,000)	(40,000)	
Programme from crime reduction and drugs (section B) to cover the Ministry of Justice's additional costs of implementing the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Act.	(2,358)	(2,358)	
Programme from the Departmental Unallocated Provision to fund Migration Impact expenditure of the following Departments:			
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.	(2,629)	(2,629)	
Department for Children, Schools and Families.	(1,396)	(1,396)	
Department of Health	(1,396)	(1,396)	

(a)	Total	o/w near Cash	o/w Admin
Department for Communities and Local Government	(1,396)	(1,396)	
Programme from the United Kingdom Border Agency (section E) to the Ministry of Justice for the European Economic Area modelling policy	(252)	(252)	
Programme from crime reduction and drugs (section B) to fund the Crown Prosecution Service's additional costs of implementing the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Act	(148)	(148)	

(b)	Capital	Total
The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:		8,081
Machinery of Government changes:		13,081
The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) was transferred to the Home Office on 1 April 2009. This machinery of Government change from HM Revenue and Customs was transferred to section E		13,081
Transfers to other Government Departments:		(5,000)
Capital from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to the Department for Communities and Local Government's affordable housing programme "Building Britain's Future"		(5,000)

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sri Lanka

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Michael Foster): I would like to update the House on the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. Six months ago the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka created almost 280,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). I visited Sri Lanka in early October and advocated freedom of movement for the IDP population who continue to be held in closed camps. At the time of my visit, this population numbered almost 253,000 people. I would like to reiterate that meeting the humanitarian needs of the IDPs remains the most immediate priority for the UK Government.

I welcome the recent announcement by the Government of Sri Lanka of their intention that all IDPs will have total freedom of movement from 1 December in the camps in Sri Lanka. It will be important that humanitarian agencies have access to fully meet the needs of the IDPs who choose to remain in the camps until they can return to their homes or go to host families. Approximately 130,000 IDPs still remain in these camps. Conditions remain basic but have improved since the separate visits to Sri Lanka earlier this year by the Foreign Secretary, a cross-party group of MPs led by Des Browne as well as my own previous visits in April and October. The monsoon has now started and it is raining heavily. Many of the temporary shelters are deteriorating and there is a risk that flooding will occur. With freedom of movement then it would be much more acceptable for humanitarian agencies to be able to improve conditions in the camps and support any moves to make them genuine welfare villages.

I also join with the UN to welcome the recent progress made by the Government of Sri Lanka over the last four weeks in returning the IDPs from the closed camps in Vavuniya to their home areas. As of 20 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that over 132,000 IDPs have now either returned to their home areas or have been released to institutions or host families elsewhere. The majority of those returning to their homes have been to Jaffna. Returns are now starting to other areas in the Vanni such as Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.

However, I also have concerns. The pace of returns is increasingly limited by the challenge of ensuring that areas are free from land mines and unexploded ordnance. I am pleased that we are helping to meet this challenge by funding the work of two British demining NGOs—the HALO Trust and Mine Action Group—to help make areas safe again. A further concern is that not all returnees enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement outside of their immediate home areas. Moreover, in some areas where the IDPs have been able to return home, humanitarian access for agencies to assist them is still restricted. This is making it unnecessarily hard to meet the basic needs of returning IDPs. I urge the Government of Sri Lanka to co-operate fully with all concerned humanitarian agencies so that they can undertake their usual assistance and protection activities, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

DFID continues to support the relief effort to Sri Lanka as the situation on the ground allows. Since September 2008, we have committed £12.5 million. Last week I approved a further £1 million from this budget to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to support the safe and dignified return of IDPs to their home areas. This grant will help provide transport, emergency shelters, temporary health clinics, immediate access to high quality water and sanitation facilities and livelihoods support for the returning IDP population. It will also allow IOM to extend their existing IDP registration programme to all IDPs. This registration programme was originally supported by DFID in April and is an essential part of enabling returning IDPs to access basic services.

We have always made it clear that the IDP camps should not be anything other than temporary in nature. During my recent visit, I confirmed that once the critical monsoon season is over DFID will only fund-life-saving emergency interventions in the existing closed camps. The focus of our funding will shift further towards early recovery activities in the area of demining, support to the returns process and livelihood recovery. Once again, I would like to reassure the House that all DFID funding is provided directly to neutral and impartial international agencies. Some £2.87 million remains to be committed as the situation on the ground allows.

Looking forward, we recognise the progress that the Government of Sri Lanka have made towards their own original target of returning 80 per cent. of the IDPs to their areas of origin by the end of the year. After 26 years of intermittent conflict, there remains an additional 214,000 long-term displaced people to consider who may now also wish to return to their home areas. It is important that the Government of Sri Lanka addresses the needs of all IDPs.

Our other priority since the end of the conflict has been to urge the Government to make a concerted effort to secure lasting peace by working for genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities. Our view remains that this can only be achieved through a fully inclusive political settlement that addresses the legitimate grievance and aspirations of all communities.

The British Government continue to engage fully with the Government of Sri Lanka as well as international and multilateral partners. The Foreign Secretary discussed these issues with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister when they last spoke on 4 November. Our High Commissioner to Sri Lanka regularly raises our concerns with senior members of the Sri Lankan Government. The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, visited Sri Lanka on 17 and 19 November and concluded that returns must be both voluntary and informed. He also welcomed the Government of Sri Lanka's assurance regarding their commitment to ensuring full freedom of movement for IDPs. I spoke to Sir John Holmes yesterday about the humanitarian situation going forwards and the international response, and reiterated the UK priority of freedom of movement for the IDP population. I also welcomed the progress that has been made to date by the Government of Sri Lanka in returning the IDPs from the camps to their homes.

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): As a consequence of budgetary transfers associated with the Winter Supplementary Estimates, the Department for International Development's total departmental expenditure limit will be reduced by £27,786,000 from £6,785,560,000 to £6,757,774,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on Resource and Capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-	(27,536)	4,299,064	1,112,960	5,412,024
Of which:*					
Administration Budget	-	1,000	156,609	3,341	159,950
Near-cash in RDEL	-	(27,536)	4,204,064	1,112,960	5,317,024
Capital DEL	-	(250)	1,356,000	9,750	1,365,750
Less Depreciation**	-	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total DEL		(27,786)	5,635,064	1,122,710	6,757,774

* The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL 'figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** Depreciation, which forms part of the resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

The net change in the Resource element of DEL arises from: Additions

£500,000 transferred to DFID from the Ministry of Defence in relation to Stabilisation Unit.

£500,000 transferred to DFID from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to Stabilisation Unit.

£6,729,000 transferred to DFID from the Ministry of Defence in relation to Conflict Prevention Pool.

Reductions

£6,000,000 transferred from DFID to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

£800,000 transferred from DFID to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in relation to London 2012 International Inspiration.

£11,500,000 transferred from DFID to Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to Conflict Prevention in Afghanistan.

£15,465,000 transferred from DFID to Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to Conflict Prevention Pool.

£1,500,000 transferred from DFID to Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to Conflict Prevention in Sri Lanka.

The net change in the Capital element of DEL arises from:

Reductions

£250,000 transferred from DFID to Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to refurbishment of shared Delhi office.

JUSTICE

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) and The National Archives (TNA) total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

Total DEL for MoJ (RfRl, 2 and 3) is increased by £214,550,000 from £9,614,212,000 to £9,828,762,000 and the administration budget has increased by £200,000 from £435,720,000 to £435,920,000.

Total DEL for the NICS has increased by £20,000,000 from £127,556,000 to £147,556,000.

Total DEL for the TNA has remained unchanged.

Within the Total DEL change for MoJ (RfRl, 2 and 3), the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted £'000	*Non-voted £'000*	*Voted £'000*	*Non-voted £'000*	*Total £'000*
Resource DEL:	208,766	(81,413)	5,736,008	3,647,419	9,383,427
Of which:					
Administration *	200	0	435,920	0	435,920
Near cash in Resource DEL	169,315	(56,962)	4,864,500	3,834,778	8,699,278
Capital **	258,945	(158,945)	832,864	35,670	868,534
Depreciation ***	(10,645)	(2,158)	(412,523)	(10,676)	(423,199)
Total	457,066	(242,516)	6,156,349	3,672,413	9,828,762

*The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

1) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for MoJ arises from:

RfR1: To promote the development of a modern, fair, cost effective and efficient system of justice for all.

Resource Change: Admin (total increase of £200,000)

Other Increases:

An increase of £200,000 in Resource DEL in relation to the transfer of FHSAA administrative support costs from the Department of Health.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £182,939,000)

Reserve Claims:

An increase in near-cash resource funding of £110,000,000 in relation to the Prison Capacity Programme.

An increase in near-cash resource funding of £34,000,000 in relation to the Workforce Modernisation Programme.

An increase in non-cash resource funding of £15,000,000 in relation to the Prison Capacity Programme.

An increase in near-cash resource funding of £300,000 in respect of Consolidated fund draw down in relation to funding for Norwich by-elections.

Other Increases:

An increase in Resource DEL of £8,600,000 in relation to the ESA (Jobcentre Plus) funding and transfer of the Appeals Court from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

An increase in Resource DEL of £4,720,000 in relation to Child Support Reform Funding from the DWP.

An increase in Resource DEL of £3,680,000 in relation to Mental Health Review Tribunal funding from the Department of Health (DoH).

An increase in Resource DEL of £2,830,000 in relation to offender learning, transfer of resources relating to skills costs of additional prison capacity from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

An increase in Resource DEL of £2,358,000 in relation to the Violent Crimes Reduction Act from the Home Office.

An increase in Resource DEL of £833,000 in relation to Immigration Removal Centres from the BIS.

An increase in Resource DEL of £291,000 in relation to the enforcement order provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 in 2009/10 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

An increase in Resource DEL of £252,000 in relation to EEA Modelling from the Home Office.

An increase in Resource DEL of £75,000 in relation to Offender Health - Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody funding from the DoH.

Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of £55,786,000)

Decreases:

A decrease in Resource DEL of £27,736,000 in relation to offender learning, transfer of resources relating to skills costs of additional prison capacity transferred to the BIS.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £14,810,000 in relation to healthcare services for additional prison places transferred to the DoH.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £4,300,000 in relation to Compass Case Management Funding transferred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

A decrease in Resource DEL of £4,198,000 in relation to National Insurance Funding transferred to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

A decrease in Resource DEL of £2,600,000 in relation to Victim Surcharges transferred to the CPS.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £806,000 in relation to London Criminal Justice Board transferred to the CPS.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £489,000 in relation to the British Crime Survey transferred to the HO.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £417,000 in relation to Road Safety Act transferred to the CPS.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £222,000 in relation to Government Skills Strategy transferred to the BIS.

A decrease in Resource DEL of £208,000 in relation to healthcare services for additional prison places transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

Capital Change (total increase of £100,000,000)

Reserve Claims:

An increase of £100,000,000 in Capital DEL in respect of the Prison Capacity Programme.

RfR2: Overseeing the effective operation of the devolution settlement in Scotland and representing the interests of Scotland in the UK Government.

Total DEL for Scotland has remained unchanged.

RfR3: To support the Secretary of State in discharging his role of representing Wales in the UK Government, representing the UK Government in Wales and ensuring the smooth running of the devolution settlement in Wales.

Total DEL for Wales has remained unchanged.

There is no change in the Capital DEL for RfR2 and RfR3

2) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for the Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) arises from:

Within the Total DEL change for Northern Ireland Court Service, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted £'000	*Non-voted £'000*	*Voted £'000*	*Non-voted £'000*	*Total £'000*
Resource DEL:	(2,534)	22,534	58,391	94,300	152,691
Of which:					
Administration*	(1,000)		1,426		1,426
Near cash in Resource DEL	(2,534)	22,534	40,451	93,800	134,251
Capital**			6,000	-	6,000
Depreciation***			(10,694)	(441)	(11,135)
Total	(2,534)	22,534	53,697	93,859	147,556

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[*] The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in Resource DEL 'figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[**] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[***] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Admin (total decrease of £1,000,000)

The change in the administration budget arises from a £1,000,000 increase in civil court fee income. This will be offset against additional related costs to dispose of civil court business. The appropriations-in-aid are classified as administrative incomeand so the additional fee income will reduce the administration cost limit by £1,000,000.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £22,534,000)

Reserve Claims:

Take up of DEL Reserve claim of £20,000,000 to reflect the increase in the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission baseline to cover the projected shortfall in legal aid expenditure.

Other Increases:

Transfer of £2,534,000 resources from voted to non-voted to cover the shortfall in Judicial Salaries paid from the Consolidated Fund.

Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of £2,534,000)

Decreases:

Transfer of £2,534,000 resources from voted to non-voted to cover the shortfall in Judicial Salaries paid from the Consolidated Fund.

3) The National Archives are not submitting a Winter Supplementary Estimate.

Edited Electoral Register

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I am today publishing the consultation paper on the future of the Edited Register (CP 46/09).

In October 2007 the Prime Minister announced that he had asked Dr. Mark Walport, the director of the Wellcome Trust and Richard Thomas the then Information Commissioner, to undertake an independent review of the framework for the use of personal information in the public and private sectors.

Their final report was published as the Data Sharing Review on 11 July 2008 and recommended various specific measures that the authors considered needed to be taken to increase public trust and confidence in the handling and processing of personal data by both the public and private sectors. The Government have already taken on board many of the review's recommendations, including, for example, strengthening the powers and penalties available to the Information Commissioner.

Recommendation 19 of the report covered the edited version of the electoral register which, since 2002, has been available for sale to anyone for any purpose. People are free to opt-out of inclusion in the Edited Register if they so wish. Nevertheless, the Data Sharing Review recommended that the Government should remove the provision allowing the sale of the edited electoral register and that it should therefore be abolished.

The report's authors argued that it sends a poor message to the public that personal information collected for something as vital as participation in the democratic process could be sold on to "anyone for any purpose" and that the sale of the Edited Register may deter some people from registering to vote at all.

The Government take the issues of data protection, the privacy of citizens and democratic engagement, including electoral registration, very seriously. It is for these reasons that the Government committed, in their response to the Data Sharing Review, to consult on the future of the Edited Register. However, abolition of the Edited Register could have an impact on those businesses, charities and others that currently use it. The Government therefore do not wish to make a final decision to act until they have considered carefully the available evidence about the potential impact of abolition.

It is hoped that the consultation I am publishing today will elicit detailed evidence and information from a wide range of sources on the potential impact of abolition, which will help to inform future policy decisions about the Edited Register. The wide range of options proposed in the consultation paper provides a variety of potential approaches to the future of the Edited Register and the Government invite views on all of them.

The consultation will run for a period of three months and closes on 23 February 2010.

A copy of the consultation paper and impact assessment has been placed in the Library of the House.

Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 (Commencement)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I wish to make the following statement to the House regarding the commencement of party funding provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. The Act received Royal Assent on 21 July 2009 and represents a significant step towards a system of party funding which is more transparent, better regulated and, most importantly, better able to win the confidence of the public.

The following provision will commence on 25 November 2009:

Section 21—Limitation of pre-candidacy election expenses for certain general elections. This provision introduces a new spending limit for candidates at certain general elections, to run from the date after 55 months of a Parliament have elapsed until the date an individual formally becomes a candidate (this is, in most cases, the date of dissolution of Parliament). Commencement on 25 November means that, in the case of the present Parliament, the new spending limit will apply to election expenses incurred on or after 25 November which are used on or after 1 January 2010.

The following provisions will commence on 1 January 2010:

Section 12—Defence to charge of failing to return donation from impermissible donor. This provision seeks to add clarity to the existing position in the 2000 Act, namely, that if a party treasurer is charged with an offence of accepting an impermissible donation, the party or party treasurer will not be guilty if they can show that they took all reasonable steps to verify that the donor was a permissible donor, and having done so, believed that was the case.

Section 13—"Reasonable excuse" in relation to certain offences under the 2000 Act. This provision recasts certain offences in the 2000 Act (mainly relating to requirements imposed by that Act to report various matters to the Electoral Commission) so that they may be committed only if something is done or not done "without reasonable excuse". The provision also removes existing defences to the offences in question, in consequence of this new qualification to the acts or omissions that may constitute an offence.

Section 14—Control of donations to members associations: responsible persons. These provisions require that members associations in receipt of a reportable permissible donation (a transaction in excess of £7,500) or an impermissible recordable donation (above £500), appoint a responsible person where they do not have a treasurer.

Section 15—Control of donations to holders of elective office—compliance officers. These provisions are intended to alleviate some of the burden of complying with reporting procedures by allowing (but not requiring) holders of elective office[1] to appoint a compliance officer to assist with the duties of reporting and verifying donations and loans. The provisions do not absolve an office holder who chooses to appoint such an officer of guilt for a failure to comply.

Section 16—Control of loans to members associations: responsible persons. This provision achieves the same effect as section 14, in relation to loans and related transactions.

Section 17—Control of loans to holders of elective office—compliance officers. This provision achieves the same effect as section 15, in relation to loans and related transactions.

Section 18—Person may not be "responsible person" for more than one recognised third party. A recognised third party is an organisation that spends more than £10,000 on campaigning at an election and registers with the Electoral Commission as a result. This Section provides that persons responsible for ensuring compliance with the reporting requirements for expenditure to which recognised third parties are subject, as set out in the 2000 Act, may not discharge these responsibilities with respect to more than one recognised third party.

Section 20—Increased thresholds in relation to donations etc.. This Section increases to more than £500 the threshold above which donations received and loans entered into must be recorded under the 2000 Act. Additionally the thresholds above which donations and loans must be reported to the Electoral Commission are increased to more than £1,500 (for individuals and accounting units) and to more than £7,500 (for registered parties, members associations, recognised third parties and permitted participants).

We are committed to implementing the Act in a timely and appropriate manner, taking account of good regulatory practice and the desirability of early commencement. We have been engaging with the political parties, the Electoral Commission and other Government Departments to ensure that the commencement programme for the Act is timely and effective.

Subject to approval by both Houses where necessary, the following provisions will commence on 1 July:

Section 1(2)—Compliance with controls imposed by the 2000 Act etc. This provision amends Section 145 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 by clarifying that the function of the Electoral Commission is to regulate, as well as monitor, compliance with that Act. In its capacity as regulator, the Commission shall take such steps as they consider appropriate to secure compliance with those requirements. The Commission will publish guidance as to what conduct will satisfy the requirements of the 2000 Act.

Section 2 (and Schedule 1)—Investigatory powers of the Commission. These provisions give effect to new Schedule 19B to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 which provides the Commission with powers to enable them to require access to information for certain purposes and to fulfil their function as an effective regulator.

Section 3 (and Schedule 2)—Civil Sanctions. These provisions insert new Schedule 19C to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. They give the Electoral Commission new powers to apply a range of civil sanctions to offences and contraventions under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (as amended by the Political Parties and Elections Act and the Electoral Administration Act 2006). The new flexible civil sanctions provide alternatives to referral for criminal prosecution under the 2000 Act, allowing the Electoral Commission to apply sanctions that are appropriate to the nature of each contravention. The Commission will also be able to use new approaches to secure compliance with the law where appropriate, rather than imposing a traditional penalty such as a fine, or referring a case for criminal investigation.

Section 8—Education about systems of government and EU institutions. This provision restricts the Electoral Commission's educational role to promoting awareness of current and pending electoral systems in the UK.

The following provisions will not be commenced before the summer of 2010:

Section 9—Declaration as to source of donation;

Section 10—Non-resident donors;

Section 11—Non-resident lenders.

Officials have begun preliminary work on the prerequisites to implementation of these provisions. However, as stated during consideration of Lords Amendments to the Bill, we are practically unable to commence Sections 10 and 11 before the summer of 2010 due to their complex nature. Section 9, which requires donors to provide declarations as to the true origins of all donations of over £7,500, will be commenced alongside Sections 10 and 11 to ensure consistency in approach, which will be welcomed by those who make political donations, as well as parties and other recipients who will have to ensure that they comply with the additional declaration requirement.

Archival Services

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): On 6 May, I informed the House that the Government had published a consultation document, "Archives for the 21st Century", asking for views on a proposed new policy for archival services. The Government specifically sought views on five main proposals to help the sector build the foundations for a more sustainable future and respond to the challenges of the digital information age.

This consultation closed on 12 August and the Government are grateful for all the responses they received from a wide range of individuals and organisations. Based on the feedback received, which was largely supportive, I have today laid before the House a revised and final version of the policy.

The policy outlines a new framework for the sustainable development and improvement of the publicly funded archive sector, which supports the sector and maximises opportunities to make archives accessible to an even wider range of people.

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[1] For the purposes of Schedule 7 (reporting of donations), the relevant elective offices are: Member of the House of Commons; Member of the European Parliament elected in the United Kingdom; Member of the Scottish Parliament; Member of the National Assembly for Wales; Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, member of any local authority in the United Kingdom (including the Common Council of the City of London but excluding a parish or community council); a member of the Greater London Assembly; and the Mayor of London or other elected mayor. For the purposes of Schedule 7A (reporting of loans) the list of relevant elective offices is the same, with the exception of independent Members of the Scottish Parliament and independent members of Scottish local authorities.

The National Archives and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council now wish to encourage professional bodies, individual institutions and other key stakeholders to help them shape a detailed action plan. This will take forward the policy's five recommendations with the aim of strengthening this key part of the nation's historical, cultural and information infrastructure. Between today and the end of January 2010 they will be consulting widely on a draft of the plan, and developing it in light of comments received.

A copy of the policy has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, along with a report on the responses received during the consultation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): Subject to parliamentary approval the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be taking a 2009-10 Winter Supplementary Estimate. The effect this will have is to increase the NIO's DEL by £41,255,000 from £1,164,487,000 to £1,205,742,000.

£'000s

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	(7,286)	10,286	292,868	896,594	1,189,462
Admin Budget	-	-	73,926	-	73,926
Near-cash	*(3,799)*	*6,799*	*248,936*	*720,179*	*969,115*
Capital	(2,773)	2,773	24,238	52,465	76,703
Depreciation	18,639	19,616	(19,249)	(41,174)	(60,423)
Total	8,580	32,675	297,857	907,885	1,205,742

The change in total DEL of £41,255,000 relates to funding of £3,000,000 from DEL Reserve for the European Elections held in May 2009 and the transfer of non-cash of £38,255,000 from depreciation to cost of capital and provisions.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimates, the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) the Scotland DEL will be increased by £418,993,000 from £29,133,289,000 to £29,552,282,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000s

	Change	*New DEL*
Resource DEL	167,423	25,588,009
Of which:		
Near Cash	*115,658*	*24,537,883*
Capital DEL	251,570	3,964,273
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	418,993	29,552,282
Less Depreciation	42,728	507,265
Total DEL	376,265	29,045,017

DEL provision for the Scotland Office DEL will remain unchanged.

The increase in the Scotland DEL takes account of the following adjustments to the Scottish Government provision:

the take-up of End Year Flexibility (EYF) by the Scottish Government amounting to £400,000,000;

International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) classification changes of £18,765,000.

The DEL increase also includes the following change:

a transfer of £228,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney General has made the following written ministerial statement:

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £8,271,000 from £736,695,000 to £744,966,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

£'000s

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	3,226	5,045	729,855	10,898	740,753
of which:					
Administration budget *	-	-	68,623	-	68,623
Near-cash in RDEL*	3,226	5,045	717,482	12,571	730,053
Capital DEL **	-	-	12,730	-	12,730
Less Depreciation ***	-	-	8,517	-	8,517
Total DEL	3,226	5,045	734,068	10,898	744,966

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £44,343,000 from £643,992,000 to £688,335,000.

Changes in Near-cash Resource DEL arise from:

A machinery of Government transfer of £36,072,000 from the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office as a result of the previously announced merger.

Budgetary transfers from the Ministry of Justice totalling £8,123,000 consisting of:

£4,300,000 to help fund the Compass Case Management System

£2,600,000 from the Victim Surcharge collections

£806,000 to provide support for the Local Criminal Justice Boards

£417,000 to help fund the prosecution of new offences introduced in the Road Safety Act 2006

A budgetary transfer of £148,000 from the Home Office to help fund the delivery of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

The Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL remains unchanged at £40,932,000.

The HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor's (TSol) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL remains unchanged at £15,699,000.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Offices (RCPO) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be decreased by £36,072,000 to £0 arising from a machinery of Government transfer to the Crown Prosecution Service as a result of the previously announced merger.

TRANSPORT

Essex Thameside and InterCity East Coast Franchise

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following Ministerial Statement:

The Essex Thameside franchise, currently operating as c2c, consists of services on the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway line from Fenchurch Street to Shoeburyness in Essex. The current franchise is due to end in May 2011. The Department will be consulting on the new franchise specification over the spring of 2010, with a view to issuing an invitation to tender in the summer of 2010 and an announcement of the successful bidder in early 2011 to start the new franchise in May 2011.

The InterCity East Coast franchise is currently operated by the East Coast Main Line Company after the previous franchise, operated by National Express East Coast, was terminated. This franchise consists of services on the East Coast Main Line from London to Scotland, including Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The Department will be consulting on the new franchise specification over the spring of 2010, with a view to issuing an invitation to tender in the autumn of 2010 and an announcement of the successful bidder in the summer 2011 to start the new franchise in November 2011.

I have today published the joint prior information notice (PIN) for the re-franchising of both the Essex Thameside and InterCity East Coast rail franchises, giving potential bidders further information and I have placed a copy in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2009-10 will be decreased by £301,000,000 from £14,438,677,000 to £14,137,677,000 and the administration budget will remain at £275,172,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital, are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	+20,917	+28,583	5,795,010	652,544	6,447,554
Of which					
Administration budget	0	0	274,672	500	275,172
Near-cash in RDEL	+20,722	+28,778	5,423,325	681,229	6,104,554
Capital	-291,447	-58,553	6,820,737	1,142,865	7,963,602
Depreciation *	-500	0	-241,705	-31,774	-273,479
Total	-271,030	-29,970	12,374,042	1,763,635	14,137,677

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £49,500,000)

Voted: total net increase of £20,917,000

RfR1

(i) Net transfer of £21,417,000 from non voted provision as follows:

£23,222,000 near cash for payments to Transport for London in respect of ITSO;

£195,000 non cash for cost of capital charges; partially offset by

£2,000,000 near cash to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for Vehicle Excise Duty enforcement work; and

(ii) Transfer of £500,000 near cash from the Royal Travel budget to the Ministry of Defence in respect of continuing squadron 32 services to the Royal Household.

Non-Voted: total net increase of £28,583,000

(i) Take up of £50,000,000 end year flexibility to fund the disbursement costs associated with the restructuring of London and Continental Railways; partially offset by

(ii) Net transfer of £21,417,000 to voted provision of which £21,222,000 is near cash and £195,000 non-cash.

Capital Change: (total net decrease of £350,000,000)

Voted: total net decrease of £291,447,000 RfR1

(i) Transfer of £350,000,000 to Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the Building Britain's Future initiative; partially offset by

(ii) Net transfer of £58,553,000 from non voted provision as follows;

£50,000,000 from departmental unallocated provision to be included within £350,000,000 transfer to Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Building Britain's Future;

£18,053,000 Supported Capital Expenditure (Resource) reclassified as capital grants; partially offset by

£9,500,000 to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for various projects.

Non-Voted: total net decrease of £58,553,000

(i) A net transfer of £58,553,000 to voted provision.

WALES

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): The Welsh Assembly Government's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £208,000 from £15,278,348,000 to £15,278,556,000. The increase is a result of:

Transfer of £208,000 Near-cash from National Offender Management Service;

In addition there will be changes to the annually managed expenditure limit (AME) of:

£1,600,000 Near-cash AME

£7,830,000 Non-cash AME

£25,[illegible]63,000 Capital AME

There will be a variation in non-budget spending of £10,700,000 cash increase required for a housing stock transfer for Conwy.

Framework Powers Explanatory Memorandum

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that an explanatory memorandum explaining the proposals for the use of framework powers in the Children, Schools and Families Bill is available today, copies of which can be found in the Vote Office, Libraries of both Houses and at: www.walesoffice.gov.uk.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Minister of State, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Government Equalities Office departmental expenditure limit will reduce by £5,019,000 from £85,201,000 to £80,182,000 and the administration budget will increase by £1,600,000 from £8,005,000 to £9,605,000.

Within the departmental expenditure limit change, the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change £k			*New Departmental Expenditure Limit £k*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	3,001	-3,000	1	17,806	60,960	78,766
of which:						
Administration	1,600	-	1	9,605	-	
Near-cash	3,001	-3,000	-	17,806	60,651	78,455
Capital		-5,020	-		1,980	1,980
Depreciation*	-	-	-		-564	-564
Total	3,001	-8,020	-5,019	17,806	62,376	80,182

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource Departmental Expenditure Limit, is excluded from the total Departmental Expenditure Limit since the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from a token increase to the administration forecast, where a Department's expenditure within the Estimate is wholly offset by income, so that a token amount of £1,000 is voted.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The decrease in the capital DEL reflects the Government Equalities Office surrender of capital funds. These were of little value to either the Government Equalities Office or the Commission for Equality and Human Rights and could be better used elsewhere.

Administration Costs Limit

This switch reflects the fact that GEO was established as a separate Department at a very late stage in CSR 07, and its budget did not reflect the costs of its stand-alone status. Successive changes have been made since then to ensure GEO has the right breakdown of money. This completes that process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit will decrease by £166,843,000 to £8,805,256,000 and the Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit will increase by £207,762,000 to £284,517,000. The Administration budget will decrease by £160,512,000 to £6,204,337,000.

	Change £k			*New Departmental Expenditure Limit £k*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-838,686	671,843	-166,843	5,880,783	2,924,473	8,805,256
of which:						
Administration	-842,936	682,424	-160,512	4,800,729	1,403,608	6,204,337
Near-cash	-918,863	680,653	-238,210	5,619,053	2,957,899	8,576,952
Capital	207,828	-66	207,762	283,709	808	284,517
Depreciation*	-68,076	329	-67,747	-234,194	-1,105	-235,299
Total DEL	-698,934	672,106	-26,828	5,930,298	2,924,176	8,854,474

* Depreciation, which forms part of resource Departmental Expenditure Limit, is excluded from the total Departmental Expenditure Limit since the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

i. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting

Standards (IFRS). In RfR1 this has led to a reduction in DEL Resource of £132,679,000.

Request for Resources 2

ii. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In RfR2 this has led to a reduction in DEL Resource of £768,861,000.

iii. A budget transfer of £4,720,000 to the Ministry of Justice to fund increased activity through the courts relating to Child Maintenance, following repeal of section 6 of the Child Support Act 1991.

iv. A budget transfer of £8,600,000 to the Ministry of Justice to meet the costs associated with increased Employment and Support Allowance appeals.

v. A budget transfer of £5,759,000 to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills relating to the self-employment option of the Government's six month offer.

vi. A budget transfer of £572,000 to the Department for Children, Schools and Families in respect of the Child Poverty Unit.

Request for Resources 3

vii. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In RfR3 this has led to a reduction in DEL Resource of £117,497,000.

viii. A budget transfer of £440,000 to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Older People's Engagement.

Request for Resources 4

ix. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In RfR4 this has led to a reduction in DEL Resource of £53,215,000.

Request for Resources 5

x. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting

Standards (IFRS). In RfR5 this has led to an increase in DEL Resource of £242,700,000.

xi. A budget transfer of £376,000 from the Cabinet Office to enable the Department to meet additional costs incurred by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

xii. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This has led to an increase in non-voted DEL Resource of £682,424,000.

xiii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £806,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £806,000 relating to decreased spend of Working Ventures (UK) Limited.

xiv. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £2,774,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £2,774,000 relating to decreased spend of the Independent Living Fund.

xv. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £172,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £172,000 relating to increased spend of the Pensions Advisory Service.

xvi. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £261,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £261,000 relating to increased spend of the Pensions Ombudsman.

xvii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £7,796,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £7,796,000 relating to decreased spend of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xviii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £431,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £431,000 relating to increased spend of the Pensions Regulator.

xix. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £69,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £69,000 relating to the alignment of internal plans.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 2

xx. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In RfR2 this has led to an increase in DEL Capital of £52,336,000.

Request for Resources 3

xxi. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In RfR3 this has led to an increase in DEL Capital of £5,913,000.

Request for Resources 5

xxii. Classification changes as a result of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In RfR5 this has led to an increase in DEL Capital of £149,513,000.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

xxiii. A decrease in non-voted capital expenditure of £9,000 offset by an increase in voted capital expenditure of £9,000 relating to decreased spend of the Pensions Advisory Service.

xxiv. An increase in non-voted capital expenditure of £213,000 offset by a decrease in voted capital expenditure of £213,000 relating to decreased spend of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xxv. A decrease in non-voted capital expenditure of £270,000 offset by an increase in voted capital expenditure of £270,000 relating to decreased spend of the Pensions Regulator

Administration Costs

The movement in the Administration Cost limit arises from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted in items i to iv, and vii to xii above.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 November 2009

TREASURY

Indemnity to Bank of England

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): On 23 November 2009 the Governor of the Bank of England informed the Chair of the Treasury Committee of how, in exceptional circumstances, the Bank of England extended emergency liquidity assistance (ELA) to RBS and HBOS in the autumn of 2008.

The Treasury granted the Bank an indemnity in October 2008. This indemnified the Bank on a net basis against losses that it might suffer or incur in connection with the Bank's commitment to ensure that the banking system had sufficient access to liquidity, including this ELA. The indemnity was granted given the size of the operations the Bank had entered into, and considered in the context of the existing demands on the Bank's balance sheet at that time. It was not related to any perception of the increased risks associated with lending to the banks, for instance because of any concerns regarding the quality of the collateral posted by the banks.

The indemnity was provided for actions taken by the Bank from 14 October 2008 for a period of two months. The Bank paid an indemnity fee of 170bps to the Treasury on borrowings it guaranteed. The total use of ELA across both banks was £61.6 billion on 17 October. The peak of the indemnity was £18.1 billion on 27 October. Treasury received fees totalling £18.9 million for this indemnity. This was recognised as "other dividends and interest" income which is payable to the consolidated fund in the 2008-09 resource accounts. The amount was not separately identified, but included within the total other dividends and interest income balance of £866.7 million disclosed in note 9, page 201 of the resource accounts.

The Bank's assessment at that time was that it was vital that its ELA operations remained confidential, and that any disclosure or leak of the operations would seriously jeopardise the financial stability of the system as a whole. I shared this assessment. I also judged that the risk to public resources was low given the quality of the collateral received by the Bank. Having carefully considered the case for disclosure of the of the prevailing circumstances, would not be in the public interest.

The Bank no longer considers it necessary for the assistance to remain confidential. I also share that judgment. Market conditions have improved considerably, and the disclosure by Lloyds Banking Group in their recent prospectus of the current aggregate amount of support it has received from the authorities has not destabilised to the markets. In the light of those developments, I now consider that the balance of the public interest is in disclosure.

I remain of the view that the Bank of England must be allowed to provide assistance to financial institutions on a confidential basis as financial stability may require.

I have written to the Chairs of the Treasury Committee and the Public Accounts Committee on this matter and a copy of these letters has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CABINET OFFICE

Charity Commission DEL (2009-10)

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): Plans to change the Charity Commission's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) and administration budget for 2009-10.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Charity Commission DEL will be increased by £1,615,000 from £30,149,000 to £31,764,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000,000 from £30,219,000 to £31,219,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources is as set out in the following table:

	New DEL		*£'000*	
	Change	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	1,000	31,219	0	31,219
DEL	1,000	31,219	0	31,219
of which:	1,000	30,119		30,119
Administration budget*				
Near cash in DEL				
Capital	615	1,315	0	1,315
Depreciation**	0	-770	0	-770
Total	1,615	31,764	0	31,764

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' may be greater than total resource DEL due to the definition overlapping.

**Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in Resource DEL arises from:

changes in operating Appropriations in Aid of £1,000,000 funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the continuation of the International Outreach project. This increase is fully offset by changes in spending and does not impact on the Commission's Departmental Expenditure Limit; and

the utilisation of £1,000,000 of the Commission's Resource EYF.

The change in the Capital DEL reflects the utilisation of £615,000 of the Commission's Capital EYF.

The funds from Resource EYF and Capital EYF will be used to rationalise our estate (the London, Liverpool and Taunton offices) and to implement a file storage system. These investment programmes will generate future cost savings.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Dr. David Southall (Special Case Files)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): During investigations by the General Medical Council into the conduct of paediatrician David Southall, it emerged that, during periods of employment at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital and the University Hospital of North Staffordshire ("Hospital Trusts") between 1980 and 2000, he kept "Special Case" files (SC files) on some of his patients separate from the hospital record system. In February 2007 the Attorney-General announced that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was to review 4434 SC files, and examine whether there had been any non-disclosure of information in relation to criminal court proceedings. In July 2008 the Attorney-General announced that the review had concluded that there were no grounds to suggest such non-disclosure of information. The Attorney-General also announced that DCSF had agreed with a recommendation that it should conduct a similar review, focusing on 82 SC files that the CPS identified as being linked to court proceedings of some kind, to ascertain if there had been any non-disclosure of information in relation to family court proceedings.

DCSF commenced the review in August 2009. It involved a total of 78 SC files, which represented all the SC file material that could be located by the Hospital Trusts. Four SC files were unable to be traced.

DCSF arranged for the NSPCC to review the SC Files as an independent expert reviewer, and agreed to accept their findings in their entirety. The review team comprised three NSPCC consultants with expertise in child protection investigations.

The NSPPC examined each case file to identify whether there was material that raised child protection concerns, and subsequently whether that material could potentially have influenced the outcome of a child protection case had it been shared with local authority children's social care services at the time. These considerations enabled the review team to report back to DCSF whether any case file needed to be referred on to the relevant local authority for further review, on the basis that the file contained material that may not have been previously known to the local authority.

The NSPCC review team have concluded the review and provided DCSF with a report of their findings. The conclusions are:

> of the 78 SC files reviewed, information was found raising child protection concerns in 76 cases. Two of the SC files were found to relate to instances where Dr. Southall was asked to prepare reports where abuse was not suspected
>
> in each of these 76 cases there was evidence of this information being known to the local authority children's social care and/or the police.

The review team recommended that none of the 78 files should be referred back to the local authority for further investigation. I accept these findings in their entirety, and have written informing the Attorney-General of the conclusion of the review. The NSPCC's report on its findings has today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Al-Sweady Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Over 120,000 British troops have served in Iraq and the conduct of the vast majority has been of the highest order. Although there have been instances of misconduct, only a tiny number of individuals have been shown to have fallen short of our high standards. Allegations of abuse are however taken very seriously.

Judicial review proceedings were issued in late 2007 relating to allegations that Iraqi nationals were detained after a firefight with British soldiers in Iraq in 2004 and unlawfully killed at a British camp, and that others had been mistreated at that camp and later at a detention facility. The Ministry of Defence found no credible evidence to support these allegations, but failings in the disclosure process meant that the Department could not reassure the court that it was in possession of all the material it needed to make rulings on these matters. As a result, the Ministry of Defence proposed that there should be a fresh investigation of the allegations, either by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) or in the form of a public inquiry. Following a scoping exercise the MPS informed the court that it would not undertake an investigation.

A public inquiry into the allegations will therefore be held under the Inquiries Act 2005. It will be chaired by Sir Thayne Forbes, who retired from the High Court Bench last year. Sir Thayne's wide experience will be invaluable and I am grateful to him for taking on this important task. He has decided to chair the inquiry alone, that is without other panel members. Whether he appoints assessors who can assist him with expert knowledge and advice is a matter for him.

The inquiry's terms of reference are:

> To investigate and report on the allegations made by the claimants in the Al- Sweady judicial review proceedings against British soldiers of (1) unlawful killing at Camp Abu Naji on 14 and 15 May 2004, and (2) the ill-treatment of five Iraqi nationals detained at Camp Abu Naji and subsequently at the divisional temporary detention facility at Shaibah Logistics Base between 14 May and 23 September 2004, taking account of the investigations which have already taken place, and to make recommendations.

The inquiry will, of course, have the full support of the Ministry of Defence. Arrangements are being made to ensure that personnel who will be required to assist the inquiry are provided with the necessary legal support. Much work is in hand to ensure that the difficulties over disclosure which arose in the judicial review proceedings are resolved and that the inquiry has all the material it needs.

HEALTH

Personal Care at Home

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Department has today published the consultation document—"Personal Care at Home: a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance".

The Personal Care at Home Bill, published today, contains new proposals costing £670 million, which are the Government's first step towards setting up a new National Care Service—a simple, fair and affordable care system for everyone.

Subject to parliamentary approval, from next October, older people and younger disabled people will be better helped to live independently for longer in their own homes—something they tell us they really want.

The Bill guarantees free personal care for the 280,000 people—including those with serious dementia or Parkinson's disease—with the highest needs. Some of those already get free care—this Bill will protect their savings from future charges. Others will get free care for the first time. We will also help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

This intensive help or "re-ablement" will help people to regain their independence and prevent ill health. This means people will maintain their dignity and rebuild their confidence so that they can live at home for longer. Helping people to stay in their own homes could involve adapting their homes.

New equipment installed in people's homes to help them stay there could include electronic pill dispensers or movement activated alarms using the voice of a grandchild to remind an elderly person to close the door, for example. Helping people to stay in their own homes and adjust their living conditions so they can stay safely, puts prevention at the heart of the system.

The consultation covers three main areas:

what should be contained in the regulations made under the Bill;

what should be contained in the guidance accompanying the regulations; and

suggests three ways of allocating funding to councils.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

High Court Judges

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Following discussions with the current Lord Chief Justice and an evaluation of the current workload pressures on the High Court Bench I have agreed that it is now appropriate to accede to the Lord Chief Justice's recent request for the 108th High Court Judge post to be filled.

On 9 and 12 June 2008 the House of Commons and the House of Lords respectively debated an Order in Council relating to an increase in the number of Lords Justice of Appeal. The purpose of that order was to allow for an increase of one Lord Justice to enable the Chair of the Law Commission to be of that rank rather than a High Court Judge as had been the case. To offset the additional costs I had agreed with the then Lord Chief Justice that we would leave vacant the 108th statutorily available High Court Judge post. Assurances were given to both Houses that the cost of this decision was simply the difference between the annual salary cost of a High Court Judge and that of a Lord Justice. Additionally, in response to a specific question raised in the House of Lords, an assurance was given that the decision to leave the 108th High Court Judge post vacant would not cause uncontainable work pressures on the remainder of the High Court Bench.

Workload across all three divisions of the High Court has since increased significantly. Family division work has increased by 10 per cent., Chancery by 30 per cent. and Queen's Bench by just under 8.5 per cent. In addition there has been an increase in the number of long cases which has an additional impact on lengthening waiting times. I am satisfied that now is the time to increase the size of the High Court Bench to help contain this increased workload.

The annual cost of this additional High Court Judge will be £249,000 (including National Insurance and pension contributions) and will be contained within existing budgets, mainly through the reduction of deputy sitting days.

SCOTLAND

Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): I have today published a White Paper on the Government's plans about devolution in Scotland. The White Paper that we are publishing today takes forward recommendations from the final report of the Commission on Scottish Devolution. I would like to thank Sir Kenneth Calman and his commissioners for their work on this report. I will today make an oral statement to the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 November 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

UK Composite Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Mandelson, has today made the following statement.

I am today announcing the publication of the UK Composite Strategy.

Fulfilling a commitment made in our policy document "New Industry, New Jobs", this strategy sets out the role Government have to play to help build a globally competitive composites industry here in the UK.

Advanced composites, such as carbon fibre, are light-weight, higher performance materials. Their use to reduce weight in automotive, aerospace and other transport applications can deliver savings in running costs and more significantly, carbon emissions—helping increase resource efficiency and drive our shift to low carbon vehicles. The strength and stiffness of advanced composites also make them an ideal material for the production of the new generation of larger wind turbines.

The UK already has a developed expertise in using composites in aerospace and high-performance cars, but future significant growth in the composite industry will be driven by more mass market, high volume cost effective production. Government's new composite strategy comprises a package of measures to strengthen Britain's composites capability, to build its composites capacity and to improve the sector's sustainability. Our aim is to enable more UK manufacturers to secure an increased share of this growing market.

The strategy includes proposals to:

Strengthen leadership in the fragmented composites sector through the establishment of a composite leadership forum. A BIS Minister will chair this forum, which will involve key companies and industry stakeholders;

Develop future technical and manufacturing capabilities in composites through a more coordinated approach to skills development;

Raise awareness of the cross-sector commercial opportunities composites present through a supply chain initiative. This will be led by the regional development agencies alongside the composite centres of excellence;

Develop rapid manufacturing capability, with Government investment of £16 million to create a cross-sectoral national composite centre in the Bristol region. The centre will deliver world-class innovation in the design and cost-effective rapid production of composites across all sectors. A £6 million Technology Strategy Board challenge will also be set to spark innovation solutions in this area;

Increase sustainability and recycling of composites, with a new consortium of Government, business and other key stakeholders to prioritise work on issues such as improving recycling processes and applications for recyclate.

As the market evolves, so will our approach. We will continue to work with businesses, industry bodies, trade unions, academics, regional development agencies and devolved Administrations to deliver these proposals.

Further details of the strategy will be available to the House later today.

TREASURY

Walker Review (Bank Governance)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The Government welcome the publication today of the final report of Sir David Walker's independent review of the corporate governance of UK banks and other financial institutions.

The corporate governance failures identified by the review contributed significantly to the financial crisis. Improvements in board practice, risk management, control and disclosure of remuneration, and the exercise of investors' ownership rights are required to address these fully.

Sir David's comprehensive recommendations are a world-leading response to the governance failures identified and will ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of improving corporate governance in the banking sector.

The Government will move quickly to implement the review recommendations, working closely with other bodies to which the review has directed recommendations for implementation.

The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has today written to Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, asking the FRC to take responsibility for a new stewardship code for institutional investors, which was recommended by Sir David.

The FRC, which is currently reviewing the combined code, will consider how it intends to address the recommendations directed to it. Similarly, the FSA will be considering how to take forward the recommendations applying principally to financial institutions. The Government are seeking powers in the Financial Services Bill to permit it to make regulations implementing the review's remuneration disclosure recommendations.

The detail of the recommendations and the specific means of implementation may be subject to further development or consultation as appropriate.

The Government will continue to work with their international partners to ensure an appropriate and consistent global response to bank corporate governance failures.

Copies of the final report have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rural Economy and Affordable Housing

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and I are today publishing a prospectus for a £1 million Rural Masterplanning Fund. I am also publishing a consultation on guidance to incentivise landowners to bring forward additional land for affordable housing in rural areas and the Matthew Taylor Review Implementation Plan. These documents are being published following commitments made in the Government's response to the Matthew Taylor review published on 25 March 2009.

In September 2007, the Prime Minister asked the hon. Member to undertake a review on how land use and planning can better support rural businesses and deliver affordable housing and to report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Minister of State for Housing and Planning. The final report of the review, with detailed recommendations, was published in July 2008.

Our response welcomed the review and set out our proposals to take forward most of the review's 48 recommendations to continue to encourage a prosperous rural economy and improve the delivery of affordable rural homes.

The Rural Masterplanning Fund prospectus invites rural local planning authorities to bid for expert technical support to assist them in masterplanning to achieve the sustainable expansion of small or medium-sized settlements, and sets out the terms of the competition.

The consultation paper seeks views on our draft guidance to local authorities on how to encourage landowners to bring forward land for affordable housing in rural areas. The guidance proposes: either allowing landowners the ability to refer family members or employees for tenancies to a percentage of the homes provided on their land, as long as they meet housing need and local connection criteria; or allowing them to keep the freehold of the land while leasing it to a housing association.

The Matthew Taylor Review Implementation Plan provides an update on progress in implementing each of the recommendations of the Matthew Taylor review.

I have placed a copy of these documents in the Libraries of both Houses.

Finance Settlement (England) 2010-11

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): I am today publishing the Government's formal proposals on distribution of formula grant to English local authorities for 2010-11, together with information on the allocations of all specific and special grants that can be announced in advance.

The proposed figures for formula grant allocations that I am publishing today are unchanged from those that were first proposed in January 2008. That is in line with the Government's policy on three year settlements, which is that we will not change the proposals for formula grant first published in January 2008, except in entirely exceptional circumstances.

The importance of maintaining that commitment is twofold. First, central and local government work together, with other local partners, in service delivery. It is vital to give local government a settled financial platform on which to build those relations and those services. Secondly, this is continued recognition of the importance of the services delivered by local authorities and the pressures on those services, such as social care and waste management.

Total formula grant for 2010-11 will be £29 billion, of which redistributed business rates will be £21.5 billion, RSG £3.1 billion and police grant, £4.4 billion. Formula grant will be £747 million or 2.6 per cent. higher than in 2009-10 on a like for like basis.

In addition, specific grants, which include the dedicated schools grant, will total £47.2 billion and will bring the overall Government grant increase to 4 per cent. in 2010-11.

In the 10 years up to 2007-08 we increased total Government grant to English local authorities by 39 per cent. in real terms, with an above inflation increase for local government in each year. There will be a further total increase over this three-year settlement of £8.6 billion.

I am pleased that the average band D council tax increase this year was 3.0 per cent.—the Government expect to see it fall further next year while authorities protect and improve front line services.

We expect the average band D council tax increase in England to fall to a 16-year low in 2010-11. We remain prepared to take capping action against excessive increases set by individual authorities and requiring them to rebill for a lower council tax if necessary. We are already capping the police authorities of Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire in advance of 2010-11 because of previous excessive increases set by these authorities. My officials are today writing to the three police authorities setting out their proposed maximum budget requirements for 2010-11.

Today's announcement on the final year of the first ever three-year settlement delivers on the Government's promise to provide financial stability to local government and recognises the important role of councils in providing real help now to communities in the current economic climate.

Today also marks the start of a period of statutory consultation with local government on formula grant distribution and I welcome their responses. Consultation closes on 6 January 2010.

I will be making available full supporting information on the Communities and Local Government website at:
http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1011/grant.htm

I have placed copies of the consultation paper, tables of formula grant allocation by local authority and other supporting material in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Siôn Simon): The Education, Youth and Culture Council will be held on 26-27 November in Brussels. I will be representing the UK on 27 November when culture and audiovisual issues will be taken. Michael Russell MSP, Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution for Scotland, will also attend the Council.

The first item on the agenda concerns the Council conclusions on promoting a creative generation. These conclusions are part of a range of initiatives, suggested in 2007 by the Commission Communication on a European agenda for culture in a globalising world, which call for culture to be considered in broader aspects of the Council's work—in this instance education and digitisation. The UK has been broadly supportive of this approach and I intend to endorse the adoption of these conclusions.

The presidency will then seek to reach a general approach on the proposal for the European year of voluntary activities promoting active European citizenship (2011). The year would promote volunteering and encourage and support the efforts of member states to develop favourable conditions for volunteering in Europe. The proposal for the year will fit well with the UK Government's aims of increasing the proportion of the population that volunteer.

The year falls helpfully just before the 2012 Olympic Games in London. I intend to support the adoption of this proposal.

The Council will be invited to adopt conclusions on media literacy in the digital environment. These conclusions encourage the promotion of media literacy through formal and informal education, while recognising member state competency on educational policy. They demonstrate our commitment to policies which will support ways of containing the risks of the internet without excessive regulation and which will help realise the creative, educational and economic potential of the internet. The UK welcomes these conclusions and I intend to support their adoption.

There will then be a discussion of a presidency paper on the digitisation of cultural content in Europe. The paper asks a series of questions on the main challenges faced by Europe in making its cultural heritage better available online. I will intervene to outline the UK view on the main issues that need to be addressed by European initiatives to encourage the digitisation of cultural works, how Governments and the EU can help facilitate private initiatives and public-private partnerships for making cultural works digitally available and what can be done by member states and national institutions to make important digitised material widely available.

Under any other business the Commission will provide information on the Google Books settlement. There will be an information point from the French delegation on the digitisation of cinemas in Europe. There will also be an information point from the Slovenian delegation on improving the position of publishers who issue books in languages with small numbers of speakers. The Austrian delegation will raise an issue concerning the protocol amending the Council of Europe convention on transfrontier television. I do not foresee a need to intervene on any of these.

DEFENCE

Duke of Connaught Unit

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): As part of the announcement of normalisation made by the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Neath, (Mr. Hain), on 1 August 2005, the Government undertook to reduce the number of military bases in Northern Ireland to the 14 core sites named in the updated Security Annex to the Joint Declaration. We have since reported that only eight of those 14 core sites would be required in the future.

However, a review of the requirement to retain a military hospital to provide secondary healthcare for service personnel in Northern Ireland has concluded that a commercial contract for Commissioned Care with an Independent Service Provider (ISP) for routine elective secondary healthcare represented the most effective and efficient means of providing quality secondary healthcare for regular military personnel. Therefore, I am announcing today our intention to close the Duke of Connaught Unit (DCU), the military hospital facility based at Musgrave Park Hospital, South Belfast, by 1 April 2010.

There will now be a period of consultation with the trade unions. We recognise the impact this decision will have on the civilian staff currently employed at the DCU, and we will make every effort to support them through this period of change.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change Report

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The meeting in Copenhagen next month is our chance to make a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and avoid dangerous climate change. But even if we secure a new global deal, some change is inescapable because of historic and projected emissions, and we need to take action to adapt to it or the consequences could be severe. The earlier we start adapting, the better equipped we will be to cope with the risks to our society, our environment and our economy. Homes and buildings, transport infrastructure and hospitals all need to be resilient to the impacts we face.

The UK climate projections that I launched earlier this year showed many of the likely impacts of climate change for the UK which include warmer, wetter winters, hotter, drier summers, sea level rise and more severe weather including storms, floods, heat waves and droughts. Climate change will affect almost every aspect of our lives and means that we will need some new infrastructure to cope. Action now will reduce costs for individuals, businesses and the public purse later.

The Government are taking the lead. Government Departments will be producing adaptation plans by spring 2010, setting out how they are assessing and managing the risks from climate change across their programmes and estates. The Government are also identifying, assessing, and where possible calculating the cost of climate change risks and opportunities at UK, national and regional level through the UK climate change risk assessment which will be produced by 2012.

In addition to this, the Climate Change Act 2008 gave the Government the power to require certain public bodies and statutory undertakers to assess and report on current risks from climate change and their plans for dealing with these risks.

The Act requires me to lay before Parliament a report on how the Government propose to exercise this power within one year of Royal Assent (by 26 November 2009), setting out the circumstances in which directions are likely to be given (the strategy for using the power) and the kinds of organisation which I consider should be directed as a matter of priority.

Following public consultation on our proposals over the summer, and in accordance with the requirements of the Act, I am today laying this report before Parliament. It focuses on those organisations that are responsible for key public services; energy, water, transport and health. It also ensures that adapting to climate change is embedded into the work of organisations such as the NHS, local authorities, police and fire services by factoring climate change into relevant public sector regulation. Other organisations with functions to protect our natural environment, or which we consider to be of critical importance but do not fit the statutory criteria for direction are being invited to report.

These organisations will have to report to me from summer until the end of 2011 outlining their assessment of the risks climate change poses and the steps they are going to take in response. This information will be used to inform the national adaptation programme which must be laid before Parliament in response to the risk assessment.

Copies of this report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. A copy of the report is also on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation.

The Government have also published their response to the consultation on the draft strategy for using the reporting power, and have today produced the statutory guidance to reporting organisations. Copies of these documents are also available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Authorities (Grant Allocations)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I have today placed in the Library our proposals for allocation of police grant for England and Wales for 2010-11. I intend to implement the proposals on police grant subject to consideration of any representations and the approval of the House. Copies are also available in the Vote Office.

In summary, this settlement intends to make available £259 million more than in 2009-10 in funding to the police service in 2010-11. Policing and reducing crime remain top priorities for this Government. We have continued to work hard to maintain the police grant at the best possible level as well as to provide secure and stable funding across policing, crime and drugs. We are committed to investing in the police so they have the tools and powers to fight crime and make communities safer.

The Government previously announced provisional funding totals for the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 in December 2007 and November 2008. This three-year settlement was received positively by police authorities and forces, as a means of providing greater certainty and improving medium-term planning. The Government face more challenging financial circumstances than expected at the time the three-year settlement was announced. The Home Secretary has however decided to prioritise funding for the police. I will therefore be implementing the substantial increases in police revenue funding set out in the three-year settlement in line with our statement in November 2008.

The funding settlement for 2010-11 continues to build on unprecedented levels of investment in the police service in England and Wales since 1997-98. On a like for like basis Government grant for the police will have increased by over 60 per cent. or over £3.7 billion between 1997-98 and 2010-11. This is almost a 20 per cent. increase in real terms. This investment has helped to expand local policing significantly. There has been considerable achievement over the last 10 years investing in an improved mix of more officers and more police staff. The police workforce has increased by 30.9 per cent. (56,590) since 1997 to 239,607 in March 2009; a record number. This includes substantial growth in police staff (41.8 per cent.) that has freed police officers from back-office and support roles for the frontline.

Neighbourhood policing forms the bedrock of local policing in the 21st century. Through effective engagement with their local community, other community safety service providers, representatives from the private sector and community organisations, neighbourhood policing teams ensure that local concerns are dealt with efficiently. Neighbourhood policing teams play a prominent part in delivering the commitments made in the Policing Pledge and in achieving the single top-down target of public confidence in police and councils to deal with crime and antisocial behaviour issues that matter locally, both of which require effective partnership working at the neighbourhood level. It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the public confidence target, which has increased from 45 per cent. in March 2008 to 50 per cent. in July 2009. The Government are working with ACPO and APA colleagues to ensure forces deliver on the Policing Pledge, drawing on the recent inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

The police reform programme continues apace. The Policing White Paper, which will be published shortly, represents the next stage of the current police reform programme and an opportunity to highlight and review the progress that has been made in the 18 months since the publication of the Green Paper: "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together". Focusing on delivery of the Policing Pledge, the confidence target and protective services; and addressing our wider approach to tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in the context of the current financial climate, the Policing White Paper will give fresh impetus to the Government's vision for the future of accountable, professional and citizen focused policing, working effectively with partners nationally and locally.

We continue to make good progress on reforming police and Criminal Justice Service processes to free up officer time by making greater use of technology and investment in mobile data devices. Jan Berry in her capacity as the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate is challenging the police service, its partners and the Home Office to think about wider reductions in unnecessary bureaucracy. Her report includes recommendations for a range of Government agencies, a study on the custody process, and a review of the implementation of the recommendations made in the Flanagan review. The White Paper will respond to these.

In 2009-10 some £4.8 million was made available to the 16 tackling knives action programme police forces to enable them and their partners to undertake additional activity to tackle serious youth violence, including knife crime and gang-related violence, with a further £500,000 for supporting activities such as the Be Safe programme with schools. Figures published last month for England and Wales for the April to June 2009 period showed a fall in police recorded knife and sharp instrument related violence compared to 2008, including a provisional 35 per cent. drop in knife related homicides from 71 to 46, and a fall in firearms offences of 5 per cent. We want to build on the progress achieved so far and in the new year we will announce our plans for 2010-11 to enable the police and their partners to continue bringing about a step change in the levels of serious youth violence in our communities.

The Home Office also contributes £76 million to the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and the Young Persons Substance Misuse Partnership Grant delivered by local government. In addition, there is a capital element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund that is under review. This funding will help local areas to deliver national and local improvement priorities such as those set out in local area agreements.

The police grant settlement 2010-11

Total provision for policing revenue grants in 2010-11 will be £9,741 million, an overall increase of 2.7 per cent. The Government propose to distribute the settlement as set out below.

Table 1: Police Revenue Funding Three-Year Settlement 2008-09 to 2010-11

	2008-09 *£m*	*2009-10* *£m*	*2010-11* *£m*
Home Office general grant	4,543	4,666	4,792
DCLG/WAG general grant	3,488	3,583	3,680
Welsh Top-Up	15	16	16
Total general Formula Grant*	8,062	8,281	8,504
% increase in general grant	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
Total Specific Grants	1,165	1,201	1,237
Total Government funding for police authorities	9,227	9,482	9,741
% increase in total Government revenue funding	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%

*This figure includes the formula grant allocations in table 2 plus former specific grants (209 million—rounded up) that are now added to general grant but are not distributed according to the formula.

Police funding proposals within the local government finance system for England are being announced by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett), today, and those for Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Provisional general policing grants (that is, Home Office Police Grant, Revenue Support Grant and National Non-domestic Rates) for English and Welsh police authorities in 2010-11 compared with 2009-10 are set out in table 2.

General grant

Within the general grant provision of a 2.7 per cent. increase, the funding floor was set at 2.5 per cent. increase for each of the CSR years. Each police authority in England and Wales is guaranteed an increase of at least this level. The grant floor provides for stability but at the same time a degree of grant scaling has enabled us to target resources to areas with greater relative need. Our promised review of the funding formula before the next CSR is already under way with active participation from the policing community.

The Government have made it clear that there is no excuse for excessive increases in precepts on council tax next year. We will not hesitate to use capping powers to deal with excessive council tax increases in 2010-11, including requiring authorities to re-bill if necessary. We took capping action against two police authorities in 2009-10 and seven police authorities in 2008-09. This included, in 2008-09, the designation of Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire police authorities for capping in advance of both 2009-10 and 2010-11. My right hon. Friend, the Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton), who is the Minister responsible for local government, is announcing today that action is being taken forward to limit these authorities' precept increases to around 3 per cent. in 2010-11. The three authorities have 21 days in which to challenge our decision. Any challenges will be carefully considered before final decisions are made.

Welsh police authorities

In line with previous years, I have again ensured that Welsh police authorities are treated on a par with English police authorities in respect to the floor damping mechanism. I have provided additional support of £15.7 million in 2010-11 to ensure Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and North Wales police authorities receive at least a minimum grant increase of 2.5 per cent. equivalent to the level of the funding floor in England. Floor funding is also partly funded through the scaling of police grant to South Wales police authority, so as to maintain consistency with the treatment of English authorities and provide the level of grant it would receive if it were in England.

Specific grants for police authorities

Police authorities will continue to receive specific grants for particular schemes. Details are set out in table 3.

Counter-terrorism funding—We will continue to invest in counter-terrorism policing. Funding for police counter-terrorism will be increased from £552 million in 2009-10 to £579 million in 2010-11.

This announcement reinforces our CSR plans for continued growth in counter-terrorism policing.

Crime Fighting Fund—£211 million will again be made available to forces in 2010-11.

Neighbourhood Policing—We will maintain the ring fence on this funding during 2010-11 to ensure that neighbourhood policing is properly embedded. Funding for each authority has increased by 2.7 per cent. A total of £341 million will be made available in 2010-11.

Funding additional to the settlement

Mobile Information Programme— In view of the enthusiastic response from frontline officers, and the success of the programme, a further £30 million capital was made available in 2009-10 as part of our campaign to free up time for officers and reduce bureaucracy.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund—The resource element of £61million and the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Grant of £15 million will continue to be paid into the Area Based Grant for 2010-11. The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Capital which is paid direct to local authorities by the Home Office is currently under review, and allocations will be announced at the earliest opportunity.

For the devolved Administration in Wales, where local area agreements are not applicable, the Crime Reduction and Anti-social Behaviour Grant is made available. The resource element of this grant will remain at £3 million for 2010-11, but the capital element is currently under review, and allocations will be announced at the earliest opportunity.

Capital

Police funding remains a priority for this Government. Even in very difficult financial times, we have prioritised the police. We have decided to continue to increase funding for the police by providing the £259 million increase in revenue funding set out in the three year funding settlement. However, we have more difficult decisions to make on capital. We will therefore review and announce capital allocations in January 2010. The police will get the best possible settlement within our means.

Efficiency

The police share the public service duty to maximise value for money, especially in the current economic climate. Locally, it is the responsibility of police authorities to set ambitious targets for the efficiency and productivity gains to be achieved by their forces and to hold chief officers to account for delivery. It is also for authorities and forces to decide locally how to recycle the benefits of increased efficiency and productivity. Senior policing leaders must help drive the organisational change required to make significant improvements in value for money, both in their forces and authorities and working with others. Value for money must be central to the strategic vision for improving policing, and chief officers and senior leaders must be visibly associated with this organisational priority within the service.

Table 2: Police Grant Allocation by English and Welsh Police Authority 2009-10 to 2010-11

Police Authority	*2009-10 Formula Allocation[1] £m*	*2010-11 Allocation[1] £m*	*Change on 2009-10 Formula Allocation %*
English Shire Authorities			
Avon & Somerset	179.7	186.1	3.5%
Bedfordshire	70.8	73.1	3.3%
Cambridgeshire	81.0	83.5	3.0%
Cheshire	120.5	123.5	2.5%
Cleveland	97.7	100.1	2.5%
Cumbria	67.2	68.9	2.5%
Derbyshire	112.6	116.2	3.1%
Devon & Cornwall	186.4	191.1	2.5%
Dorset	65.3	66.9	2.5%
Durham	91.4	93.7	2.5%
Essex	177.9	183.1	2.9%
Gloucestershire	59.3	60.8	2.5%
Hampshire	207.5	213.0	2.7%
Hertfordshire	121.2	124.9	3.0%
Humberside	128.4	131.8	2.6%
Kent	192.1	197.4	2.7%
Lancashire	204.1	209.7	2.7%
Leicestershire	118.0	121.4	2.9%
Lincolnshire	64.3	66.3	3.2%
Norfolk	87.6	89.8	2.5%
North Yorkshire	76.7	78.6	2.5%
Northamptonshire	75.5	77.5	2.7%
Nottinghamshire	141.4	146.0	3.3%
Staffordshire	120.6	123.8	2.7%
Suffolk	71.0	72.7	2.5%
Surrey	101.8	104.4	2.5%
Sussex	169.8	174.1	2.5%
Thames Valley	238.2	244.7	2.8%
Warwickshire	54.1	55.6	2.7%
West Mercia	121.8	124.9	2.5%
Wiltshire	65.2	66.8	2.5%
Shires Total	3669.0	3770.0	2.8%
English Metropolitan Authorities			
Greater Manchester	458.9	472.5	3.0%
Merseyside	267.4	274.3	2.6%
Northumbria	249.9	256.2	2.5%
South Yorkshire	204.1	209.2	2.5%
West Midlands	486.1	504.3	3.8%
West Yorkshire	339.2	350.5	3.3%
Mets Total	2005.7	2067.1	3.1%
London Authorities			
GLA - Police	1978.3	2027.7	2.5%
City of London[2]	21.0	21.8	N/A
English Total	7674.0	7886.6	2.8%
Welsh Authorities			
Dyfed-Powys[3]	54.4	55.8	2.5%
Gwent[3]	82.6	84.7	2.5%
North Wales[3]	80.1	82.1	2.5%
South Wales[3]	181.5	186.4	2.7%
Welsh total	398.6	409.0	2.6%
TOTAL	8072.6	8295.7	2.7%

Notes to table 2

1. Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance (No.2—Provisional Settlement Police Authorities) Report (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.

2. Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue Support Grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of grant floors.

3. Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.

Table 3: Specific Grant Allocations 2008-09 to 2010-11

	2008-09 £m	*2009-10 £m*	*2010-11 £m*
Crime Fighting Fund	277	277	277
Neighbourhood Policing Fund & Community Support Officers	324	332	341
Police Counter Terrorism	524	552*	579
Basic Command Units	40	40	40
Grand Total	1,165	1,201	1,237

*This was later increased to £569 million in year (2009-10)

Identity and Passport Service (Framework Agreement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The "Identity and Passport Service Framework Agreement" is being published today in line with HM Treasury and Cabinet Office guidance. The framework agreement sets out clear strategic objectives, responsibilities and lines of accountability for IPS. These will help to ensure that IPS is able to deliver on its key purpose of safeguarding identity. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 30 November and 1 December 2009 in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice,my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, and the Scottish Lord Advocate, Elish Angiolini, intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council, beginning in Mixed Committee with non-EU Schengen states, will receive an update from the presidency on the current state of play on the implementation of the regulation establishing the Visa Information system (VIS). The UK does not participate in that regulation.

The presidency will update Ministers on arrangements for the first milestone test for the second-generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). The UK welcomes the update and will seek to ensure that the test is well-planned and managed, ideally taking place before the end of 2009.

The Council will have an orientation debate on the Commission's proposal for establishing an EU agency for the management of large-scale IT systems. The Commission carried out an impact assessment which endorsed the need to create an agency. The UK supports the need for an agency and wishes to take part in the adoption and application of this proposal.

Finally, the Mixed Committee will be asked to adopt legislation giving Schengen visa liberalisation to Serbia, the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. While the UK does not participate in the EU visa regime, we maintain an interest in all visa issues.

Following Mixed Committee, the Council will be asked to adopt a decision authorising the presidency to sign, on behalf of the EU, an agreement between EU and Japan on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (MLA). The presidency has recently concluded negotiations on this agreement and UK objectives in relation to this were met. The UK is therefore content for such a decision to be adopted, subject to the views of the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees.

The presidency will present the draft future JHA work programme (the Stockholm Programme) and there will be a general debate with interior items on day one and justice on day two. Ministers will be expected to agree the draft programme which will be adopted at the December European Council.

Measures contained in the programme aim to ensure that every citizen can have confidence that, wherever they are in the EU, judicial decisions made in a civil court in their favour can be enforced, criminals will face justice and all defendants are guaranteed a fair trial.

The programme will result in an EU where children are safer, where data are shared sensibly, where we facilitate legal travel but clamp down on illegal immigration, where mutual recognition is the cornerstone of judicial co-operation, where member states co-operate on counter-terrorism and combat organised crime, and where we work closely with external countries on JHA and beyond.

There will be a state of play discussion on the Common European Asylum System, which is likely to focus on the recently published asylum procedures and qualification directives. Since December 2008 the European Commission has been proposing measures to deliver the second phase of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The proposals on the procedures (which sets out minimum standards for deciding asylum claims, including rules on such things as interviews and appeal rights) and qualification (which sets out the circumstances in which applicants will qualify for international protection) directives were published by the Commission on the 23 October 2009. The presidency will want to gauge member states' initial reactions to the new proposals. The UK believes these directives are not necessary at this time as they undermine the migration pact and will be seeking to ensure that language in these directives aligns with the conclusions in the migration pact.

Over lunch, Interior Ministers will hold a discussion on the location of the European asylum support office.

The presidency will present the outcomes and action points of the EU-US ministerial troika and of the EU-Western Balkans ministerial forum. There will also be a presentation on the preparation of the EU-Russia ministerial Permanent Partnership Council (PPC), due to be held on 2 December in Stockholm. The UK supports the presidency's efforts in these areas.

There will be a presentation on the six-monthly report by the counter-terrorism co-ordinator (CTC). The CTC has recently revised the counter-terrorism action plan and after receiving comments from member states will present the action plan to the Council. The UK supports efforts made by the CTC to continue to drive forward EU co-operation on CT, and is particularly appreciative of his efforts with priority third countries, such as Pakistan.

The presidency is seeking to adopt the Council decision on the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme. The US Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) currently uses payment information carried through the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) system to identify and trace terrorist finance and facilitators. This agreement is needed because of a restructuring of SWIFT. The UK supports the Council decision subject to the views of the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees.

The presidency is seeking to approve the proposal for an information management strategy for EU internal security. The strategy should allow enhanced project management and improved data security. The UK supports the latest draft which calls for a strategic approach across the areas of law enforcement, judicial co-operation and border management and is content for its approval at Council.

On day two of the Council, as previously stated, Justice Ministers will be asked to discuss and agree to the justice aspects of the draft future JHA work programme (the Stockholm Programme).

The presidency will provide Justice Ministers with information on the current state of play of working group negotiations on the proposed framework decision on combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child pornography. The Government support this measure, but due to the changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty, this proposal will no longer be taken forward as a framework decision. The Commission are likely to retable this proposal as a directive after the Lisbon Treaty comes into effect. The Government will update the Scrutiny Committees about this.

Justice Ministers will also have an orientation debate about the negotiations that have been taking place at official level about a proposed framework decision on transfer of proceedings in criminal cases. This proposal, too, will no longer be taken forward as a framework decision after the Lisbon Treaty comes into effect. It would need to be represented as a directive, but it is unclear in what timescale this will happen.

The Council will then have an orientation debate to clarify the way forward on the draft framework decision on combating trafficking of human beings following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The presidency will also seek to adopt the action orientated paper (AOP) on human trafficking. The UK welcomes the approach adopted in the AOP, which creates a more coherent and proactive approach to combating trafficking by EU member states in partnership with third countries.

Finally on the justice agenda, the presidency are expected to inform the Council on the state of play on e-justice.

Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I have placed in the Library of the House the third annual report to Home Office and HM Treasury Ministers on the Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) regime to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The reporting system is a key element in the United Kingdom's defences against money laundering and terrorist financing.

The report has been prepared by multi-agency Committee, under the chairmanship of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), which includes the financial services sector, police, other law enforcement agencies, and the Financial Services Authority.

The Government note the continuing progress that SOCA and the other participants are making to ensure that the reporting system is operating so as to help deter, detect and disrupt those involved in these crimes and in holding them to account. The Government also welcome the Committee's development of a long-term strategy to increase the value and impact of the SAR regime.

The overall goal is a SARs system that addresses the threats to the UK from crime and terrorism, contributes to the reduction of harm and the recovery of the proceeds of crime while minimising the costs of compliance to industry and others.

PRIME MINISTER

Financial Support for Members of the House of Lords (SSRB Report)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Senior Salaries Review Body was commissioned to undertake a review into the financial assistance available to Members of the House of Lords in recognition that the expenses regime was now outdated and we needed to move to a system that would be more transparent and ensure greater accountability.

I am today publishing the SSRB's report, which I accept. In doing so, I wish to record my gratitude to Bill Cockburn and SSRB members for undertaking such a thorough and comprehensive review. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. For the Government, the Leader of the Lords will now work with other Members of the House of Lords to take forward its implementation.

TRANSPORT

Franchised Rail Services

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

On 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 21WS I informed the House that National Express East Coast (NXEC) was expected to default on their franchise to operate rail services on the east coast main line and that in consequence I would establish a state company to ensure continuity of service from the date that the company ceased operations.

The NXEC franchise was terminated on 13 November when a state company, East Coast, took over the service with minimal disruption. I have since announced that the East Coast Company will manage the franchise for two years, until November 2011, so that the Government can review options for a new franchise and consult widely before it is re-let.

The termination of the NXEC franchise on 13 November is a default under the National Express East Anglia (NXEA) franchise. Having considered the relevant facts, I yesterday notified NXEA that their franchise will terminate on 31 March 2011, without the extension to 2014 which would otherwise have happened. The process for securing a new operator will start immediately so that after full consultation a new franchise can begin from April 2011.

In determining the future of the C2C and NXEA franchises, my overriding concern has been to minimise disruption to passengers and staff, and cost to the taxpayer, while ensuring that train companies stand by their commitments. I judge these objectives are best served by:

Terminating NXEA's franchise in 2011, causing them to for go three years of profit; and

Beginning the re-franchising process immediately so that a new operator is in place in early 2011.

However, my judgment is that the public interest would not be served by terminating the franchises immediately, necessitating state management during the re-franchising period and three operators in two years.

National Express remains bound to comply with its obligations under its franchises. My Department will be monitoring performance closely in the coming months to safeguard the interests of the travelling public.

WALES

Future Funding

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): In parallel with the White Paper "Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom: Building on ten years of Scottish devolution", I am pleased to inform the House that the Government have agreed new arrangements in relation to future funding in Wales.

These address concerns, expressed by the House of Lords Select Committee report on the Barnett formula, the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales (chaired by Gerald Holtham), and also by the Welsh Assembly Government, about the continued application of the formula in Wales, in particular whether pressures in the Barnett formula for additional convergence towards the English average could in future disadvantage Wales.

The Government welcome many aspects of the Holtham report, which it continues to study in detail.

The new arrangements are as follows:

the Government agree that the Barnett formula could lead to convergence to an extent that would be regarded as unacceptable although further convergence is not currently expected in the coming years;

the Government will make a full assessment of the extent of convergence with consideration of Wales' position relative to other parts of the United Kingdom as part of each spending review; and

following this assessment the Government would be prepared to take action if appropriate to ensure Wales is not disproportionately disadvantaged.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 30 November and 1 December 2009 in Brussels. I shall represent the United Kingdom on all items on 30 November, except for the intervention on "gender equality: strengthening growth and employment", where the United Kingdom will be represented by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality. Health business will be taken on 1 December 2009.

The first and main item of the agenda will be a policy debate on recovering from the financial crisis and preparing for the post-2010 Lisbon strategy. The presidency wants a contribution to the debate on a successor to the strategy after 2010, in the context of demographic change and economic recovery. There will also be a policy debate on gender equality, strengthening growth and employment. The United Kingdom wants to ensure that the post-2010 Lisbon strategy reflects the realities of the changing requirements of the European labour market by focusing on the need for fairness.

The presidency will seek political agreement on a revised parental leave directive. Social partners signed a new framework agreement in June 2009 and the European Commission published a proposal for a directive to implement the new agreement. The United Kingdom welcomes that agreement. The presidency will also seek political agreement on work on the fishing convention which applies to all fishers and all fishing vessels engaged in commercial fishing operations. The United Kingdom supported the development and adoption of the convention, and is committed to working towards ratification. The other item for political agreement is a directive on equal treatment between men and women engaged in a self-employed capacity. This aims to promote equal treatment between self-employed workers and their "assisting spouses". The United Kingdom welcomes the progress the Swedish presidency has made with the text and is working with the presidency to achieve a reasonable outcome at Council.

The presidency will seek adoption of Council conclusions on healthy and dignified ageing. The United Kingdom supports the text which acknowledges the importance of active ageing in light of the demographic challenge. The Council will also seek adoption of Council conclusions on follow-up of the implementation by the member states and the European Union institutions of the Beijing platform of action to strengthen institutional mechanisms for promoting gender equality. The United Kingdom fully supports this and has submitted a report on progress in implementing the platform.

There will be a progress report on the anti-discrimination directive. The United Kingdom has taken a positive approach to the directive but emphasises the need for the directive to be clear and that any action has to be proportionate to the issue being tackled.

Under any other business, there will be information on conferences held under the Swedish presidency. The incoming Spanish presidency will also give an outline of their work programme.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 30 November 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

East Midlands Regional Development Agency (Chairmanship)

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has today made the following statement:

> I am pleased to announce the extension of the appointment for Bryan Jackson Chair of the Board of the East Midlands Regional Development Agency (RDA) for up to one year to 13 December 2011.
>
> The RDA's are playing a crucial role in supporting the national and regional economies through these tough economic conditions, and providing help to businesses and individuals in order that the regions are in the strongest possible position for the future. Bryan will bring proven experience and leadership.
>
> I have placed further details of the extension, including Bryan Jackson's biography, in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the extension has been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice.

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): The EU Competitiveness Council will take place in Brussels on 3 and 4 December and this statement covers the business to be taken at the Council. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs, will represent the UK on consumer issues on 3 December. I shall represent the UK on patents and other issues on 4 December and Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, will represent the UK when a Minister is not in attendance.

The main items on the agenda are agreement on an enhanced patent system for Europe, proposals for a Consumer Rights Directive, a Council regulation on a European private company sta[illegible]gress on better regulation and Competitivenes[illegible]ntributions to the post 2010 Lisbon agenda on [illegible] competitiveness.

Other substantive items include the adoption of a Council resolution on enhanced governance of the European research area, on future priorities for European research and research based innovation, the future of information communications technology (ICT) research, and progress on joint programming, in particular through a joint programming initiative to fight neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimers.

The consumer related any other business (AOB) items will be dealt with on 3 December after the policy debate on the Consumer Rights Directive I have set out below the other AOB items:

AOB items

a. Information from the Commission on the international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) project.

b. Commission communication on investing in the development of a low-carbon technologies strategic energy technology (SET) plan.

c. Commission information on a proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision on participation in a joint Baltic Sea research and development programme undertaken by several member states.

d. Communication on global monitoring for environment and security (GMES): challenges and next steps for the space component.

e. Declaration of Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania on the integrated proposal to implement project ELI (extreme light infrastructure) of the ESFRI (European strategy forum on research infrastructures) roadmap.

f. Presentation by Commission on cross border business to consumer e-commerce in the EU.

g. Presidency information on the Stockholm conference of 4 Nov 2009 "consumer rights when purchasing digital content".

h. Belgian delegation request on latest developments regarding Opel and GM.

i. Presidency information on legal framework for gambling and betting in EU member states.

j. Presidency information on proposal for a regulation laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products.

k. Better regulation presentation of a practical exercise on sharing good examples.

l. Google Books—information from the Commission.

m. Work programme of the incoming presidency from the Spanish delegation.

The Government's main aims will be:

> To agree a resolution to strengthen the political governance of the European research area and adopt conclusions on carrying forward joint programming initiatives such as fighting neurodegenerative diseases and on providing guidance on future priorities for research and innovation in the post-2010 Lisbon strategy.
>
> To support the aims of the Consumer Rights Directive but ensure that it meets an appropriate level of consumer protection.
>
> To reach agreement on an enhanced patent system in Europe.
>
> To provide UK support for a EU post Lisbon 2010 competitiveness strategy that will focus on economic growth, skills and innovation, and a strong EU single market.

Regional Development Agencies Board Appointments

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): I am pleased to announce that I have decided to appoint fourteen RDA board members, who between them will serve four of our regional development agencies, and my right hon. Friend the Minister for Business, Innovations and Skills, has agreed to appoint two new members to the board of Yorkshire Forward. I have also agreed, following approval from the Commissioner for Public Appointments, to extend for a further year the Trade Union position on the board of East of England Development Agency while the vacancy is being filled. The names of the successful candidates are listed in the following table.

RDA	*Board Member Appointees*	*Position Appointed*
Advantage West Midlands	Kumar Muthalagappan OBE	Business
	Edward Turpie	Business
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Local Authority
	Prof Madeleine Atkins	Education
East of England Development Agency	Colin Riordan	Education
	Karen Livingstone	Trade Union
South East England Development Agency	Cllr Keith House	Local Authority
	Andrew Finney	Local Authority
	Richard Ascough	Trade Union
	Prof Julian Crampton	Education
South West Regional Development Agency	David Fursdon	Business
	Peter (Joseph) Moore	Business
	Christopher Lewis	Local Authority
	Cllr Philip Young	Local Authority
	Catherine Bakewell MBE	Local Authority
Yorkshire Forward	Heidi Mottram	Business
	Sharon Allen	Voluntary / Community

The RDAs are playing a crucial role in supporting the national and regional economies through these tough economic conditions, and providing help to businesses and individuals in order that the regions are in the strongest possible position for the future. All the appointees bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their RDA which will be extremely important in adding value to the contribution that the board can make.

The appointments will commence on the 14 December 2009 for a period of three years, expiring in December 2012.

I have placed further details of these appointments, including biographies, in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the appointments were made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice.

TREASURY

Oman (Double Taxation Agreement)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new protocol to the Double Taxation Agreement with Oman was signed on 26 November 2009. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Counter-Terrorist Asset Freezing Regime (July to September 2009)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): In a written ministerial statement on 10 October 2006, the then Economic Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton, (Ed Balls), undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter terrorism asset freezing regime.

This is the 12th of these reports and covers the period July to September 2009[1].

Asset-Freezing Designations

In the quarter July to September 2009, the Treasury gave no directions under the Al-Qaida and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. The Treasury revoked no directions given under this Order.

The Treasury gave two directions under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009. None of these was in respect of individuals already designated under earlier Orders.

There were no financial sanctions designations made at the UN, or at the EU in relation to terrorism or Al-Qaida and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

As of 30 September 2009, a total of 247 accounts containing £580,000 of suspected terrorists' funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews under the Terrorism Order 2006

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed two formal reviews this quarter; both individuals remained designated under the Terrorism Order 2006.

Licensing

Licensing is the means by which the UK gives effect to exemptions in asset-freezing provisions whether related to UN or EC regulations or domestic terrorism legislation. Each licence is considered on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike a balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and the humanitarian rights of the individuals and third parties affected.

Thirty-five licences were issued this quarter in relation to individuals and/or entities subject to an asset freeze under the Al-Qaida and Taliban, and Terrorism Orders.

Litigation

On 5 and 8 October 2009 the Supreme Court heard the case of G and Ors v HM Treasury. This challenged the legality and proportionality of the Al-Qaida (United Nation Measures) Order 2006 and the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009. We await judgment.

Developments

The Terrorism (United Nations Order) 2009 came into force on 10 August 2009 and will continue to apply until August 2010 unless revoked sooner. The 2009 Order replaces and revokes the Terrorism (United Nations Order) 2006. The key aims of the amendments in the new Order are to tailor asset-freezing restrictions to ensure that the prohibitions are focused on areas of genuine operational concern, and to strengthen and make more explicit the safeguards in how the regime is operated. The key changes under the Terrorism Order 2009 include:

> safeguards that all designations must be necessary for the protection of the public;
>
> that designations will now expire after 12 months unless reviewed and renewed within that period; and
>
> modifications to the prohibitions, particularly provisions regarding the making available of funds and economic resources for the benefit of a designated person.

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[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

Royal Bank of Scotland

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): In my statement to the House, 3 November, I set out a number of changes to the Royal Bank of Scotland's proposed participation in the asset protection scheme. On the same day, the Treasury laid a minute in Parliament reporting the associated contingent liability. As this set out, while the material commercial issues had been agreed with RBS, full legal documents were at that stagestill being finalised.

These legal documents have now been finalised and agreements were therefore signed last week. The agreements remain subject to state-aid approval by the European Commission as well as approval by RBS's shareholders.

I said in my statement that I would provide Parliament with full details of the operation of the scheme when the final agreements are signed and approved by the Commission. I now expect to make this information available to Parliament by 7 December, possibly before the Commission gives its final state-aid approval, depending on the timing of that approval. When I do so, legal agreements—subject only to any necessary redactions to protect commercial interests—will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, together with information on the assets covered by the APS.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools Capital

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Local authorities and their representative organisations have been in discussion with us for a number of months over how best to respond to unexpected increases in demand for pupil places in primary schools.

There has been a sustained increase in the birth rate nationally since 2001, which is now feeding through to primary schools. The Government have already made available funding to deal with projected pupil growth through allocations made to local authorities for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Local authorities, generally, have good systems in place to plan for increasing demand for pupil places. However, local authorities have told us that pupil numbers are higher than expected in some areas as a result of a combination of localised factors: changes in the housing market in the current economic climate, and also increased demand in the state sector due to better local schools and in some cases less demand for independent places. As a result it has been particularly difficult for some authorities to accurately forecast demand and plan to provide the places needed for reception-age pupils over the next few years. I commend the efforts that have been made to provide a place for every child this September.

In July I announced that I would make available £200 million of capital to support the neediest authorities to provide additional places by 2011, and invited applications. Since July there have been extensive discussions with individual authorities and with representative bodies including the Local Government Association, London Councils, and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, on how best to allocate this funding.

As a result of these discussions we have revised the eligibility criteria and methodology for additional funding. Authorities that did not originally apply will have the opportunity to discuss with my Department whether they are eligible for funding under the revised criteria.

I have also decided to increase the funding we are allocating to primary capital places to £300 million. Thirty-four authorities who have applied will receive additional funding, the details of which are shown in the table. The funding announced today will create an estimated additional 15,000 new primary places. Successful local authorities will be expected to build the extra permanent places by September 2011 and money may be held back from future capital funding allocations where actual pupil numbers fall short of predictions.

I believe it is right to give additional funding, on top of record capital investment, to build extra classrooms and facilities in areas facing sudden increases in demand which could not reasonably have been forecast. Housing children in mobile or hired classrooms is only a temporary solution—so it is vital that local authorities facing the greatest pressure on their capital budgets address these issues urgently using the funding I am now making available and in the longer-term through the primary capital programme.

In the medium and longer terms, funding school places, and in particular responding to the increase in demand for primary school places, will be a priority from 2011, so that there is a good permanent place for every child where it is wanted. Partnerships for Schools, which since October has had responsibility for the delivery of schools capital programmes, is setting up a working group which will include representative bodies, to consider how best to allocate and target funding to ensure that this happens.

I am also today announcing the 11 local authorities which will be joining the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme for the first time. BSF is the most ambitious public building programme for decades, revamping the entire secondary school estate. The authorities joining today are Brent, Darlington, Devon, Havering, Kingston, Croydon, Norfolk, Plymouth, Sefton, Wakefield, and Warrington. Another two—Lancashire and Tameside—will be starting the next phases of their BSF schemes. Planning and building on these schemes will begin between January and March 2010. These additions bring the total number of local authorities in England that are active in BSF to 96.

The BSF projects announced today will join more than 1,000 individual rebuilding or renewal BSF projects already under way. Momentum has built quickly this year. One hundred and twenty-nine schools which have benefited from BSF investment are now open—more than double the number open in December 2008.

Primary Capital Allocations

Barking and Dagenham	18,360,000
Barnet	1,000,000
Birmingham	24,319,000
Blackpool	6,000,000
Bolton	3,320,000
Bournemouth	6,011,000

Primary Capital Allocations	
Bradford	11,009,000
Brent	14,766,000
Brighton and Hove	5,700,000
Camden	1,000,000
Coventry	7,427,000
Croydon	12,834,000
Ealing	4,006,000
Enfield	6,941,000
Haringey	8,570,000
Kingston upon Thames	8,185,000
Lambeth	9,002,000
Leeds	1,702,000
Luton	15,594,000
Manchester	6,808,000
Newham	17,464,000
North Somerset	1,000,000
Peterborough	5,257,000
Redbridge	3,466,000
Richmond	3,327,000
Sheffield	13,778,000
Slough	8,986,000
Southampton	1,000,000
Southwark	12,063,000
Swindon	6,374,000
Thurrock	2,563,000
Trafford	1,000,000
Waltham Forest	4,234,000
Wandsworth	17,902,000

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Legal Deposit Libraries (Digital Archiving)

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 (the "2003 Act") requires publishers to deliver a copy of every printed work published in the United Kingdom to the British Library and the other five legal deposit libraries upon their request. It also provides for regulations to be made which widen the scope of legal deposit to include non-print publications.

The Legal Deposit Advisory Panel ("LDAP") was established in September 2005 following a ministerial undertaking made during the Second Reading of the 2003 Act in the House of Lords. It is an advisory panel of people appointed by Ministers and others acting in an ex officio capacity, including representatives from the Legal Deposit Libraries, the publishing sector and independent members. Its primary purpose is to make recommendations on the extension of the legal deposit regime to non-print materials.

LDAP has worked at arm's length from Government and developed its own work programme concentrating on three areas of non-print material for the collection and preservation of:

a. UK Offline and Microform Publications

b. UK Online Publications, free of charge and without access restrictions

c. Commercial and protected e-content (those publications requiring subscription, password, or some other compliance by users).

To date they have provided a recommendation on (a) and (b) above.

Lord Evans, during the Second Reading of the Legal Deposit Libraries in the House of Lords on 12 September 2003 made an undertaking that the initial set of regulations would be restricted to offline publications (a).

However, the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel has recommended a self-regulated voluntary system of deposit in respect of these materials, with active requesting by libraries. We have considered the detailed proposals provided and are content to accept their recommendation, and will therefore not be making regulations in that area for the present time, although we reserve the right to monitor their collection, and should the need arise we will regulate accordingly under the powers available to us in the 2003 Act.

We will shortly commence a full and detailed consultation on their recommendations for (b), with a view to producing regulations in that area. LDAP have started work on (c) and are due to report back to me on their progress in March 2010.

DEFENCE

Defence Support Group (St. Athan)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): I am announcing today that the Ministry of Defence is beginning formal consultation with the trades unions on a proposed programme of reductions at the Defence Support Group's (DSG) large aircraft business unit (LABU) at St. Athan, in South Wales designed to achieve closure of the facility by June 2013 at the latest.

The LABU provides maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services to the RAF's VC10 air refuelling and tanker aircraft under contract from BAE Systems. MRO work at the LABU will decline significantly after December 2010 when contract activity will reduce by 70 per cent. as the last major VC10 maintenance activity is completed. Minor maintenance of the VC10 will continue through to closure of the facility.

Despite the best efforts of MOD and DSG management there is insufficient new work to sustain current staff numbers and maintain the viability of the business over the medium to long-term. MOD believes it is therefore critical to DSG's continued effectiveness and efficiency as a trading fund to reduce the LABU's capacity and capability in a phased manner commensurate with the unit's declining workload. This is expected to involve an initial reduction of up to 200 personnel by December 2010 with the balance of around 139 staff leaving no later than June 2013. We have explored the possibilities for finding alternative uses for the capacity at St. Athan but none have materialised, and though we continue to remain open to viable alternative suggestions I believe it would be irresponsible, and not in the interests of the workforce, to delay decisions any further.

In parallel with its consultation with the trades unions, MOD will continue to work with other Government Departments and agencies to explore future job opportunities for DSG employees who would be affected by the drawdown and closure of the facility. The option of retraining and transferring LABU personnel to other DSG sites would also be maximised where this meets business needs and individuals' preferences. DSG will also work closely with external training providers and agencies such as Careers Wales, JobCentre Plus and other advisory organisations to explore alternative training and job opportunities for any employees wanting to retrain for an alternative career.

In conclusion, I pay tribute to the outstanding service that DSG St. Athan personnel, both past and present, have provided and the pivotal role they have played in supporting the UK Armed Forces with the vital equipment needed on critical operations both at home and overseas.

Call-out Order

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): A call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable the call-out of members of the volunteer reserve forces to assist with flood relief operations in the United Kingdom. The order takes effect from 26 November 2009 and ceases to have effect on 25 November 2010. Currently, we envisage deploying up to 100 reservists for up to 14 days.

The individuals concerned will come from the 42 North-West Brigade staff, 4 Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, the local TA Infantry Battalion and members of the High Readiness Reserves (HRR) from 2 Signal Brigade. The HRR personnel will be called-out under powers (Section 32 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996) already delegated to the SJC (UK). It is planned that the reservists will be required for the entire duration; estimates suggest the operation will last up to eight days.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Extraordinary EU Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): I represented the UK at the Extraordinary Environment Council in Brussels on 23 November, where EU Environment Ministers undertook a final review of positions and strategies ahead of the climate change conference in Copenhagen in December.

The Council began with presentations from COP President Denmark and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer on the path to Copenhagen. The Commission followed these with a presentation on the current status of the EU's emissions and other parties' offers. Norway was also invited to present its views on the role of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Ministers continued discussions at a closed session. Guided by questions prepared by the Swedish presidency, Ministers discussed the EU's goals and priorities for the Copenhagen conference. At the request of the presidency, the UK presented its views on registries and measurement, reporting and verification.

While there were no formal conclusions, Ministers confirmed the EU's mandate for negotiation that was established at the Environment Council in October and then endorsed at the European Council. Ministers also reaffirmed the need to maintain EU ambition for the forthcoming conference, with many member states emphasising the importance of upholding the EU's conditional offer for a 30 per cent. emissions reduction to leverage sufficient offers from others.

HEALTH

Innovation Pass Pilot Consultation

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The Government published a public consultation on proposals for an Innovation Pass pilot on 27 November 2009. The Innovation Pass will make selected innovative medicines available on the national health service for a time limited period from a ring-fenced budget while further evidence on their benefits is gathered.

The Government announced the introduction of an Innovation Pass pilot in the "Office for Life Sciences Blueprint" published in July 2009. This brought together a coherent package of measures to maintain a competitive life sciences industry, an industry that is crucial to the United Kingdom from both a health and economic perspective. One of the key actions made a commitment for the Department to introduce an "Innovation Pass" with NICE.

The proposals for the Innovation Pass have been developed for medicines for small patient populations which have the potential to deliver improved patient outcomes but where data to demonstrate cost-effectiveness are so far limited. The pass will be a three-year initiative which will make selected innovative medicines available on the NHS in England for a time-limited period, prior to a NICE appraisal. The pass will be funded from a ring-fenced £25 million budget in 2010-11. Funding for future years will be determined in the context of the next spending review.

It is important to ensure that the creation of the Innovation Pass does not in any way undermine the vital role of NICE in providing authoritative advice to the NHS on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health interventions. This is why medicines covered by the Innovation Pass will still go through a NICE appraisal after a maximum of three years. NICE will also play a key part in running the process for the pass.

The consultation seeks views on the Government proposals for the Innovation Pass pilot. The proposals will be revised in the light of the responses received and will also be reviewed over the first 12 months of the pilot.

The Pass has the potential to bring benefit to NHS patients in England providing earlier access to innovative medicines for patients with the greatest need. At the same time, the Pass will facilitate the collection of further information to support a subsequent NICE appraisal, which will mean in the longer-term the relevant NICE appraisals will be based on stronger evidence.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A Bill of Rights (Northern Ireland)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing a consultation paper on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

The need for an additional human rights framework that reflects the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland was recognised in the Belfast Agreement and given shape through the commitment to set up a Bill of Rights forum as part of the St. Andrews Agreement. The launch of a consultation on a Bill of Rights follows through on those commitments.

I am very grateful to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission for its commitment and energy in leading the debate on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and for its wide ranging and thorough advice to the Government, which has greatly informed this consultation paper and has made a substantial contribution to the debate on rights and responsibilities across the UK.

A positive future for the people of Northern Ireland must be firmly based on partnership, equality and mutual respect. Over the past 12 years, but particularly since the restoration of devolution in May 2007, Northern Ireland has made huge progress in building that positive future. The fundamental principle of mutual respect for the rights and freedoms of all the people of Northern Ireland has been at the heart of this progress, and still has a crucial role to play in its future success. For that reason, I urge everyone with the best interests of Northern Ireland at heart to study this consultation paper carefully and to give their views.

The consultation process will run until 1 March. Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

PRIME MINISTER

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Commonwealth Heads of Government met in their 60th anniversary year in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 27 to 29 November.

Her Majesty the Queen attended the biennial meeting for the 19th time in her role as Head of the Commonwealth. Leaders paid tribute to her dedication and commitment to the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth continues to show, through its diversity and by its actions, its continued importance as we work together to address the great global challenges.

Many Commonwealth countries, such as Bangladesh, the Maldives and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands, are among those most vulnerable to climate change. So this was a unique opportunity for leaders of one third of the world's population to address the key issues which must be resolved in the Copenhagen agreement. The special session was addressed by Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen, who is organising next month's conference in Copenhagen, by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and by President Sarkozy.

The Commonwealth agreed to the British proposal for a Copenhagen Launch Fund to provide immediate assistance to developing countries to tackle climate change. We agreed that this fund should start next year and rise to $10 billion annually in 2012, with a further scaling up of financial assistance to 2020.

With 89 leaders now committed to attending Copenhagen, the Commonwealth backed the Danish Prime Minister's plan for a "comprehensive, substantial and operationally binding agreement in Copenhagen leading towards a full legally binding outcome no later than 2010" and so, while no one should be in any doubt how much there is still to do to secure an agreement that will limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees, the Commonwealth has helped to lay the foundations for this: an agreement on which our future prosperity and security depend.

And it is fitting also, in its 60th year, for the Commonwealth to have made the biggest advance in its history towards free healthcare for its citizens. The agreement—the Commonwealth Health Compact—to remove user fees and provide healthcare free at the point of use could change the lives of millions and mean that mothers are no longer forced to choose between sending their children to the doctor or sending them to school. This is the first time in history that over 50 countries have collectively committed to free healthcare, an announcement with the potential to reach nearly one third of the world's population.

I met the Secretary-General of the United Nations principally to discuss Afghanistan. We then held a joint press conference to announce the London conference on Afghanistan on 28 January 2010. I shall be making a Statement to Parliament about our policy on Afghanistan and Pakistan today.

The Commonwealth echoed UK calls for a new social contract between the financial sector and the public to rebalance risk and reward and called on the IMF to look at all options in its forthcoming review.

The Commonwealth also sent a strong message to the Government of Zimbabwe faithfully and effectively to implement the global political agreement. On this basis it looked forward to conditions being right for Zimbabwe to rejoin the Commonwealth in the future.

Leaders agreed that Australia would host the 2011 summit.

It was agreed to include a commitment to looking at strengthening the organisation and ensuring all of its democratic values and principles are upheld. With half of the Commonwealth's 2 billion citizens under the age of 25, we have a duty to be a forward looking group of nations. The Commonwealth continues to provide a unique forum in which to bring together developed and developing countries, large and small economies, to unite in recognition of their shared history and to determine their shared future.

Copies of the concluding communiqué have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Seafarers and the Equality Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): Some three years ago, the European Commission informed the Government that they had received a complaint relating to section 9 (s9) of the Race Relations Act 1976 (RRA 1976), which permits wage differentiation on the ground of nationality against a seafarer who was recruited abroad. We accept that this provision appears to be inconsistent with EC law, to the extent that it allows pay differentiation to the disadvantage of seafarers from other EC or EEA states or others with corresponding rights in EC law.

Additionally, the Commission have since raised concerns regarding section 8 (s8) of the RRA 1976 in that it states that an employee working wholly outside Great Britain has to be ordinarily resident in Great Britain, in order to be protected from discrimination on racial grounds. The Commission view this as being unjustifiably indirectly discriminatory and contrary to Articles 39 EC and 7(1) of Regulation 1612/68 when applied to EC and EEA nationals and others with corresponding rights in EC law.

If enacted, the Equality Bill will bring together and re-state the majority of existing domestic discrimination legislation including the RRA 1976. It therefore provides an opportunity to address both of the Commission's concerns.

The Equality Bill is silent as to where it applies, so this will generally be for the courts and tribunals to determine. As far as the Part 5 (work) provisions are concerned, this approach is acceptable for most workers, who at any given time are within either the territory of the United Kingdom or some other territory. However, seafarers work on ships that may be constantly moving between waters under the jurisdiction of different states. Clause 78 of the Equality Bill therefore provides for Ministers to specify in regulations which seafarers on which ships, and which crew on which hovercraft, the employment provisions apply to. This enables Ministers to take account of international law and custom and the global practices of the shipping industry when deciding exactly how Part 5 is to apply to seafarers.

The regulation making power in Clause 78 of the Bill is wide enough for the regulations to allow the differential pay practice to continue although, following the concerns raised by the European Commission regarding EC, EEA and other relevant seafarers, any replacement for s9 would have to take a more narrowly drawn form.

A key factor to consider before deciding whether to bring forward a more narrowly drawn replacement for s9 is the likely financial effect on industry of the different possible options.

Today, therefore, I am publishing draft regulations, which would be subject to the affirmative procedure in Parliament, showing how the Government currently propose that Part 5 of the Bill should apply to seafarers.

Regulations 3(1) and 4 of the draft regulations would apply the employment provisions of the Bill to every seafarer on a UK ship with a port of choice in Great Britain, so long as the seafarer either works at least partly in Great Britain, or is a UK or other EEA national (or has corresponding EC law rights) and has an employment relationship sufficiently linked to Great Britain. Regulation 3(2) would extend the employment provisions to ships flagged to other EEA countries while they are in UK waters, but only for the benefit of those seafarers who fulfil the criteria in regulation 3(3)(b) to (d).

Regulation 3(2) requires further work across Government before a final version of the regulations can be laid before Parliament for approval.

The draft regulations are currently silent on the issue of differential pay. If the regulations were made in the form of the published draft, the practice of nationality-based pay differentials would become unlawful. However, I have today written to a number of stakeholders seeking evidence-based financial estimates of the likely impact of either:

(a) outlawing the practice altogether; or

(b) continuing to allow the payment of differential rates to seafarers but only where such differentiation would not operate to the disadvantage of nationals of any EC or EEA state (or any other state whose nationals are entitled to corresponding rights under EC law) nor that of seafarers recruited in Great Britain, and the difference in rates would correspond to a difference in the costs of living in the places where the seafarers respectively habitually reside.

Copies of the draft regulations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Once I have considered any responses submitted, I will report back to Parliament.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 December 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Social Work Task Force

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I have today accepted the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force. This is an important moment for social workers in England. It will make a big difference for the many children, young people, families and adults in vulnerable circumstances in our society who depend on their support.

The Task Force was established to conduct a 'nuts and bolts' review of social work and to put forward the reforms needed to secure excellent front line practice. Their recommendations, which cover children's and adult social work, have been considerably influenced by the work of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee in their report on the training of children and families social workers. We are very grateful to them for their important contribution.

The Task Force's recommendations, all of which we are accepting, will make a real difference to the support that social workers receive, the training and education they can access and to the status and public understanding of their work—they will also make a difference that must be sustained for future generations of social workers and those thinking about entering the profession now. These recommendations include:

A career structure for social workers so that experienced practitioners can progress in front line roles as well as in management. This must ensure that social workers are appropriately rewarded for their work.

A new and independent college for social work, led and owned by the profession, which must establish a stronger voice for social work and exercise appropriate influence over national policy making and public debate; and a programme of work to improve public understanding of social work and of the essential contribution social workers make.

A new standard for employers to ensure that all employers put in place the conditions that social workers need to practice effectively, including high quality supervision, time for continuing professional development and manageable work loads.

Reforms to initial social work training, so that people of high calibre enter social work and all students receive good quality education and practice learning placements, equipping them for the challenges they will face when they begin to practice.

A new 'licensing' system, which will introduce an assessed probationary year in employment for new social work graduates. This must ensure that they are both properly supported in their first year in practice and are properly assessed before they are fully licensed.

A revamped framework for continuing professional development, underpinned by a practice-based masters qualification, so that all social workers can keep their skills up to date and develop specialist knowledge as they progress in their careers.

All this in addition to the reforms to the integrated children's system the Task Force has already proposed and the Government have accepted. Over the next few months these should significantly reduce bureaucracy on the front line.

The Task Force has said that to deliver this change, we need to work with the profession, employers and social work educators through a comprehensive reform programme which will require commitment over a number of years. As Secretaries of State for Children and for Health, we are determined to do that, and will continue to work together to provide strong leadership and drive.

We must ensure that the momentum the Task Force has established is maintained. We are therefore grateful to Moira Gibb, who has ably chaired the Task Force and brought so many different interests to the table, for agreeing to establish a new social work reform board, which will oversee the development and implementation of the reform programme.

The Task Force says that the profession should establish a college of social work, to develop a more powerful and equal voice in shaping policy and reform. We have therefore agreed that the Government should work with the profession to help it to establish the college of social work as soon as possible. Our civil servants have begun discussions with key representative organisations—as well as with social workers on the Task Force—about how best to do this. The college must be led by the profession and will be an independent institution and not a Government body.

We want to see the college acquire Royal status to give the profession the standing it deserves and the status it needs to influence national policy making and public debate. The college will have to establish itself as a credible, independent voice for social work and for the profession, and while Government will provide it with start-up support the College will need to work with social workers to determine its independent funding and governance arrangements. It may also wish to explore the potential to expand its coverage to other parts of the UK.

Early in 2010, the Government—with the support of the social work reform board—will publish an implementation plan for reform of adult and children's social work. This will set out how we will put in place the key elements of the reform programme, making a sustained commitment to improvement for the future.

Social workers, and those who educate and employ them, have been important members of the Social Work Task Force. Many more have contributed to the development of their recommendations through the impressive programme of regional events, visits to local areas and consultation processes and through their extensive survey of social worker workloads. Service users have also played a vocal and critical role on the Task Force and by contributing their perspective of the difference that social work—and really good social workers—can make for them.

We must act quickly, ensuring that our actions have lasting impact—making a difference not just for the current generation of social workers, but for those who will follow them over the next decade and beyond. This is of potential benefit to all of us in society who may need social work services at any time in our lives. And we must act together. As Secretaries of State for Children and for Health, that is what we intend to do. To succeed, we will need employers, educators and the profession to rise to the Task Force's challenge and seize this opportunity.

We have written today to all social workers in England to thank them for their work and to explain how we are responding to the Task Force's report, to local authority employers and to higher education institutions to explain what this means for them, and to hon. Members of this House, to ask for their help in celebrating the work of social workers and those who employ and educate them, encouraging them to seize this important opportunity.

I am placing copies of the report and our response in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): One of the key roles of local authorities in responding to climate change is to be innovative in how new development is planned. Today, I am announcing that we have had a very encouraging number of responses from local authorities who want to take forward major new development to the exemplar green standards which we set out in the Eco-towns PPS published in July of this year. This shows how the standards we set are influencing the thinking of local authorities across the country as they consider how to do new development. Possible second wave bids are still at an early stage and will be subject to further, widespread consultation on proposals, before public consultation and local planning approval.

The Eco-towns PPS sets the highest sustainability standards ever required for new development. One of the key components of the eco-towns concept is to exploit low carbon innovation at community scale with a minimum development over time of around 5,000 homes. It is the scope for a new community or communities to create the opportunity of large scale innovation in how jobs, schools and services are delivered in low carbon ways that will help us pilot new approaches in responding to climate change.

I am today announcing that we are taking forward nine expressions of interest from local authorities and city regions, covering 14 locations, for support for the further planning and feasibility work which will test whether potential development in these areas could meet the concepts and standards set out in the Eco-towns PPS. They comprise:

(i) Existing schemes at Shoreham Harbour and Northstowe, where there is now an opportunity and desire to redesign elements of the project to see if it can meet even higher sustainability standards.

(ii) A total of five authorities and partnerships, covering 10 locations in Taunton (Monkton Heathfield and Corneytrowe), Yeovil, Leeds City Region (Aire Valley, York North West, North Kirklees and Bradford-Shipley Canal Corridor), Coventry and Lincoln (Lincoln area and Gainsborough). In these locations the concepts are still at an early stage but development work under the Eco-towns PPS offers the possibility of creating an outstanding new community providing it is feasible and deliverable.

(iii) Cornwall, which is already taking forward one of the first eco-towns, and Sheffield city region (Dearne Valley, South Yorkshire) wish to use the eco-towns concept to carry out a broader survey of potential, test alternative options for development and then use the eco-town concept and standards to see if this can be successfully applied to their area.

The locations and places I am announcing today show how local authorities want to use the eco-town concept and standards in a variety of ways. Developing these projects will be a demanding process requiring good co-operation between central and local partners and the private sector. We will now be taking these proposals forward in more detailed discussion with each authority with a view to providing funding support for more detailed design and to test feasibility, drawing on the £5 million fund for studies which I announced in July. We will be working with partners across Government and the agencies to ensure that infrastructure, environment and sustainability issues are suitable addressed. In all cases these proposals are or are intended to become part of the local plan work being led by the authority and will be subject to the full local planning process.

I am also keen that this is not just planning work but that we can help communities see some of the potential by funding demonstrator low and zero-carbon exemplar schemes as we currently envisage in the first four eco-towns. To this end I am making available £5 million capital funding to enable authorities to show the type of development that will be possible and my Department will be issuing further advice on this in conjunction with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I am today announcing the provisional allocations totalling £135 million for the second year of Housing Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) (2009-10). HPDG was established in 2007 to reward local authorities for improved delivery of housing and other planning services as part of their strategic, place shaping role and to provide more support to communities and local councils who are actively seeking to deliver new homes. We consulted on changes to the consultation to the distribution mechanism earlier in the year. The decision to review the grant scheme follows our public commitment to monitor the grant in light of changes in economic circumstances.

The changes to the allocation formula for 2009-10 are:

> An additional reward for those who could demonstrate housebuilder involvement in developing strategic housing land availability assessments (SHLAA); and
>
> to increase the reward for demonstrating land for having a five year land supply at the expense of having development plan documents in place.

A copy of the provisional allocations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyimplementation/planningdeliverygrant.

A summary of responses and formal Government response to the consultation paper will be published with the final allocations in the new year.

DEFENCE

UK-Iraq Agreement (Training and Maritime Support)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): The House will be aware from my previous statement on 22 October that the UK-Iraq Agreement was approved by the Iraqi Council of Representatives last month. The Iraqi Presidency Council has now also ratified the agreement, and on 22 November our Embassy in Baghdad received a diplomatic note from the Government of Iraq confirming that their constitutional procedures are now complete.

My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary wrote to Opposition spokesmen and the Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee in September to explain our intention to bring the agreement into force as soon as the Iraqi Government were ready. Our agreement with Iraq on training and maritime support has now entered into force.

Training of the Iraqi navy has been paused since June, and it is right that we resume this activity as soon as possible. It is vital that the Iraqi navy quickly develop the capacity to protect their territorial waters and the offshore oil platforms on which their economy is so dependent. Our Royal Navy trainers have therefore returned to Iraq, and our ships have re-entered Iraqi territorial waters. Both tasks are being undertaken alongside our US colleagues.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Change Pathfinders

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am announcing today the outcome of the coastal change pathfinder competition that I launched in June. The following 15 local authorities have been selected as pathfinders to explore new approaches to planning for, and managing, adaptation to coastal change together with their communities, using the £11 million coastal change fund that I announced in June:

Chichester District Council
Dorset County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Sussex County Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Hastings Borough Council
Lincolnshire County Council
North Norfolk District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Somerset County Council
South Hams District Council
Tendring District Council
Waveney District Council

Between now and spring 2011, these 15 pathfinders will explore a range of approaches to both building capacity and finding practical solutions. These approaches include new ways to engage local communities, helping them to plan for how the coast could change; ways of retaining community vitality by planning for and managing change, for instance through roll-back and buy to let schemes; and capital projects that enable continued enjoyment of changing coastal environments, for example building and maintaining boardwalks and beach infrastructure.

Further information on how pathfinder bids were assessed together with details of funding allocations and the pathfinder projects is available on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/manage/pathfinder/index.htm.

The pathfinder programme is all about learning and, throughout it, lessons learned will be shared so that other coastal authorities and organisations can benefit.

TRANSPORT

Correction to Written Answers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): I regret to inform the House that some of the figures in the answer I gave to parliamentary questions 298819-298839 on 11 November, *Official Report*, columns 368W, 369W and 370W, about the spend to date, forecast future spend and total projected costs of Highways Agency road schemes contained inaccuracies.

Subsequently errors were found in some non-major project schemes arising from arithmetical error; reporting of 2009-10 costs only; and error in data entry in the table containing the 116 Highways Agency road schemes.

The Highways Agency has prepared a revised table. The table has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Railways: Greater Anglia Franchise

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

> The Greater Anglia franchise, currently operating as National Express East Anglia, consists of services from London Liverpool Street to north and east Greater London, Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk. As I announced to the House on 26 November, the current franchise will terminate on 31 March 2011. The Department will be consulting on the new franchise specification over the spring of 2010, with a view to issuing an invitation to tender in the summer of 2010 and an announcement of the successful bidder in late 2010 to start the new franchise on 1 April 2011.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 2 December 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Post Office Banking (Government Consultation)

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has made the following statement:

The Post Office is one of the most trusted institutions in the country. It stands at the heart of communities up and down the country, offering face to face access to essential services through its network of 11,500 branches. The Government are committed to a secure and sustainable future for the Post Office network, and have committed up to £1.7 billion of funding to support the Post Office network to 2011.

The Post Office is already a successful provider of financial services. It provides a wide range of savings, loans (including mortgages), and insurance products. It is also the UK's leading foreign exchange provider. But we want it to do more and to build on this successful platform. It is for this reason that the Prime Minister announced on 29 September that he wanted "the Post Office to play a much bigger role, bringing banking services back to the heart of people's communities."

To take this forward, the Government are today launching a 12-week national consultation on Post Office banking. The consultation will set out clearly what the Post Office already offers in terms of financial services; it will draw comparisons with Post Banks around the world; and it will set out the Government's vision for Post Office banking and the values that should underpin it. These values are that Post Office banking should be universal, trusted, accessible and sustainable.

In addition, the consultation invites views on a number of proposals for new financial products that the Post Office could offer. These include: a Post Office current account, a children's savings account to encourage saving at the Post Office from an early age, new services for small businesses including a Post Office business account, and a weekly budgeting account to allow those on low incomes to take advantage of direct debits and reduced bills.

We will be asking people whether they agree that these are the right areas to focus on and which banking services they would like to see at their local post office. This consultation sets the scene for an expansion in banking in Post Offices. It could result in important new business for our Post Offices and important new services for the public.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 2 December 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Legislative deliberations

Regulations establishing three European Supervisory Authorities

Ministers will discuss regulations establishing three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs): a European Banking Authority, a European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority and a European Securities and Markets Authority. At June European Council the UK supported the establishment of a European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) and the three new ESAs. The Government will now be looking to ensure those agreements are upheld.

Taxation

a) VAT: Draft directive on reverse charge on emission allowances and certain goods

The Council will seek a general approach on a draft VAT directive regarding an optional and temporary application of the reverse charge mechanism in relation to supplies of certain goods and services susceptible to fraud. The presidency has tabled a compromise proposal which includes emissions allowances, mobile phones and computer chips and extends the application until June 2015. The Government support the draft proposal.

b) VAT treatment of postal services

Following its removal from the November ECOFIN agenda, the Council will be asked to provide political guidelines on the possible way forward for VAT on postal services.

c) Savings Tax Directive

ECOFIN will be asked to reach political agreement on proposed amendments to the Savings Tax Directive, which is the main EU instrument for tackling cross-border tax evasion on savings income, by automatic exchange of information. The proposal closes loopholes in the directive and extends its scope to cover income substantially equivalent to savings interest, such as income from life insurance products and low risk securities. This and the following items have strong links to the international transparency agenda, including work by the G20 on tax havens and non-co-operative jurisdictions, which has been led by the UK under its G20 presidency in 2009.

d) Recovery Directive

The recovery directive is aimed at improving existing procedures for recovery of direct and indirect tax debts, including on income tax, VAT, excise duties and EU agricultural levies. The Government support the extended provisions, which will reduce the opportunities for businesses and individuals to escape paying tax which is legally due in one member state, by moving to another member state.

e) Administrative Co-operation Directive

After discussions in November, ECOFIN will try to agree a general approach on this directive. The directive improves exchange of information and brings the EU into line with OECD standards by removing the right to refuse information on grounds of bank secrecy. The Government support these goals.

Non-legislative activities

Taxation

Anti-fraud agreements with third countries

The Council will reopen ECOFIN discussions on the draft anti-fraud agreement with Liechtenstein, and a negotiating mandate for anti-fraud agreements with Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland and San Marino. The proposed agreements provide for exchange of information to international standards in administrative and criminal matters in the tax field and related areas.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

Following preparation by the Economic and Financial Committee (EFC), ECOFIN will sign off decisions and recommendations for the revised Excessive Deficit Procedures of the UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Greece. The recommendations are in line with recent agreements in ECOFIN and the European Council on the EU's framework for fiscal exit strategies.

Preparations for the 10 and 11 December European Council

a) Financial supervision

The presidency will indicate how the December European Council will be informed on progress, taking into account the results of the Council deliberations on the micro— and macro-supervisory elements of the package.

b) Contribution from ECOFIN to the discussion on the post-2010 Lisbon agenda

Ministers will agree a set of conclusions on the direction of a successor to the Lisbon strategy. The Government support the conclusions, which help build momentum towards the December European Council, where EU Heads will discuss a set of principles for a new European strategy for jobs and growth.

c) Exit strategies

Following on from discussions in November, Ministers will be asked to agree a set of conclusions on financial exit strategies. The UK is content with the conclusions as they stand, which recognise that it is important to start designing the strategy for a transparent and coordinated phasing out of the different support schemes, but emphasise that it would be premature to initiate an exit from the support schemes while markets are still fragile.

Financial stability arrangements

ECOFIN will discuss and agree conclusions on financial stability, focusing on improvements in cross-border crisis management in the banking sector. The Government are content with the conclusions, which recognise the value of co-ordination among member states and with external partners. They also endorse the principles of firm-specific recovery and resolution plans.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Smart Metering

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

I am pleased to inform the House that the Department of Energy and Climate Change is today publishing "Towards a smarter future: Government response to the consultation on electricity and gas smart metering." This document summarises responses to the consultation on smart metering published by the Government in May 2009 and sets out the Government's conclusions.

Smart meters will pave the way for a transformation in the way that energy is supplied and consumed, contributing to our goals of energy security and carbon reduction. They will provide energy consumers with real-time information about their energy use, enabling them to monitor and reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions. Smart meters will support improved energy efficiency advice and facilitate smoother, faster switching between suppliers. They are an important first step towards the future development of a "smarter grid" delivering improved network efficiency and responsiveness, in turn this will help facilitate the introduction and increased use of renewable energy and ultra low carbon vehicles (electric and plug-in hybrids).

In October 2008 we announced our intention to mandate a roll out of electricity and gas smart meters to all homes in Great Britain with the aim of completing the roll out by the end of 2020. The May 2009 consultation document addressed fundamental issues for the organisation of the roll out. In particular the consultation document made proposals for the delivery model for domestic smart meters, the minimum high level functional requirements for smart meters, and the approach to extending meter functionality requirements in the small and medium non-domestic sector. Our decisions on these fundamental points will provide the platform for the detailed work now required to move towards the roll out of smart meters.

The delivery model for domestic smart meters

The Government have concluded that the "Central Communications" model offers the best approach to Britain's domestic smart meter roll out. Under this model the energy supply companies will be responsible for procuring and installing meters, while communications between the meters and utility companies will be co-ordinated centrally. The Central Communications model combines strong incentives for energy suppliers to deliver a high quality service to their customers, with wide scope to simplify and improve industry processes, making it easier to switch between suppliers. We believe that this approach will minimise the time and risk involved in preparing for roll out, in particular since it avoids changing the disposition of responsibility for metering services. Metering is currently the responsibility of energy suppliers and this model avoids fundamental change to these arrangements. We also believe that the development of smart grids can be fostered effectively under this approach, in particular by ensuring the requirements of network business are reflected appropriately in the minimum meter specification and the communications solution.

The high-level smart functionality requirements for domestic electricity and gas meters and the provision of a real-time display and information

The Government also confirm the proposals set out in the consultation document on high-level smart meter functionality requirements, with the exception of functionality to remotely enable/disable gas supply. In respect of the latter issue, we believe further work is needed to assess issues raised in consultation responses before reaching final decisions. A range of proposals were made in relation to the requirements of smart grids, but we have concluded that smart grid functionality is a subset of the high level requirements already proposed in the consultation. The next stage is to develop these high level proposals in more detail.

Consultation responses expressed a range of views on the issue of stand-alone displays. Having considered the response, the Government's position remain that a stand-alone display should be provided with the smart meter. In our view the provision of a display is important to securing the consumer benefits of smart metering, delivering real time information to consumers on their energy consumption in a readily accessible form. The next step will be to develop the requirements in more detail. As part of this work we will consider further what specific requirements should apply in cases where it is clear that the individual consumer does not wish to have such a display. However it will be important that this does not detract from the general premise that a free standing display should be provided with the meter.

The approach on smart functionality requirements for non-domestic meters

The Government have adjusted their proposals in this area following the consultation. We are confirming our intention to mandate the installation of meters with smart functionality at non-domestic sites covered by the consultation (those in electricity profile classes three and four and non-domestic gas sites with consumption of less than 732 MWh per annum) on the same time scale as for domestic sites, with exceptions under certain circumstances.

However, under our revised proposals, the exceptions will be much more limited in respect of meters installed after April 2014. We therefore propose to require that electricity and gas meters at sites in this category must have smart functionality by the end of 2020 except:

a) where advanced meters have been installed before April 2014 and the customer wishes to retain the existing meters; or

b) where advanced meters have been installed after April 2014 under pre-existing contractual arrangements; or

c) where there are technical constraints on the achievement of smart functionality.

We consider that this approach will best balance the need to support future smart grids by maximising installation of smart functionality with the desirability of allowing energy and carbon savings from advanced installations to continue in the short- to medium-term. However, we recognise that exceptions will need to be carefully framed, taking into account the technical and commercial complexities. We will discuss these revised proposals with suppliers, purchasers, meter and energy service providers and other stakeholders to refine the details before consulting on more detailed proposals.

The proposed implementation programme

Decisions set out in the response document provide the platform for the major programme of detailed implementation work that will be needed to support the mass roll out of smart meters under a mandate. A central smart meter implementation programme is therefore being established to design and implement new cross-industry arrangements, in co-ordination with the change programmes which industry participants will need to implement themselves. The first phase of the smart metering programme will be a joint DECC/Ofgem initiative. DECC will chair an over-arching DECC/Ofgem strategic programme board. This board will provide the necessary strategic oversight and direction to the programme. Ofgem E-Serve will manage and ensure effective delivery of phase one of the programme on behalf of DECC.

We firmly agree with those consultation respondents who have emphasised that the implementation programme must effectively engage the full range of stakeholders. In particular, a focus on the needs and perspectives of consumers much be at the heart of decision making at each stage under the programme, as well as the views of industry participants who will take on responsibility for delivery. The implementation programme will therefore develop a range of mechanisms to ensure that stakeholders' views are captured and taken into account.

I have placed copies of "Towards a smarter future: Government response to the consultation on electricity and gas smart metering" in the Libraries of both Houses. I have also placed in the Libraries copies of a number of associated documents which we are also publishing today: "Impact assessment of a GB-wide smart meter roll out for the domestic sector"; "Impact assessment of smart / advanced meters roll out to small and medium businesses"; and a report from Baringa Partners "Smart meter rollout: energy network business market model and definition and evaluation project".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Policing White Paper

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am publishing a White Paper on policing today, copies of which are available in the Vote Office. "Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed" builds on the radical reform programme set out in the Green Paper published last year by my predecessor, my right hon. Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith). The Green Paper put the public's priorities at the heart of policing, replacing top-down targets with a sharp focus on public confidence.

Significant and continuing investment in police numbers, technology and training; the growing impact of neighbourhood policing; the greater responsiveness symbolised by the new policing pledge; more effective collaboration between forces and with partners on everything from anti-social behaviour to serious organised crime and counter terrorism; clearer leadership, less bureaucracy and more front line discretion: these changes are all creating a golden opportunity for the police and the public. The police service has worked with the Government to lock in the significant falls in crime over the past decade; and we are beginning to see the improvements in public confidence that were such an important element of the Green Paper vision. The service is now well placed to meet the challenges ahead.

The White Paper addresses four specific issues:

First, it sets out the specific action we are taking to ensure that anti-social behaviour is tackled, not tolerated. We will ensure that the police and their local partners work together effectively, with the right tools and information, to place greater emphasis on prevention and support for victims.

Secondly, it commits police forces and police authorities to ensuring that the public know their entitlement to clear standards of service, how to make their voice heard and shape local policing priorities, with timely local information on performance they need to judge progress. Police authorities have an important role to play and I am very grateful to my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) for his recent report on how police authorities could increase their public impact and strengthen their links with local councils, without the risks structural upheaval would bring. The White Paper's proposals have benefited greatly from his contribution.

Thirdly, the White Paper addresses the challenging financial climate in the years ahead, which demands more urgent and radical action to squeeze out unnecessary costs, raise productivity and ensure that we continue to focus on front line delivery. The White Paper lays out a wide ranging programme to drive national and regional procurement, reduce overheads, improve benchmarking information and strengthen commitment to collaboration between forces and voluntary mergers where appropriate.

Fourthly, the White Paper endorses the guiding principles and style of policing championed in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's report "Adapting to Protest: Strengthening the British Model of Policing", published on 25 November 2009. This is a significant contribution to the future direction of the policing of protests, and sets out our commitment to work with the service to take forward the report's recommendations.

I am also publishing today "Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing", the first full report by Jan Berry, the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate. This report marks the end of Jan's first full year advising Government and the police forces and police authorities of England and Wales on how best to remove unnecessary bureaucracy in policing. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House and in the Vote Office.

Jan's report acknowledges the complex demands placed on the service, and rightly challenges the Government and those who lead forces to continue to work to simplify the performance landscape, crime recording processes, and data collection and other bureaucracy imposed at all levels on front line officers. Through the White Paper the Government have endorsed 13 of Jan's recommendations immediately and will consider a further 22 with police service colleagues in the months ahead.

Both Jan Berry's final report and this White Paper have benefited from open and constructive discussion with the police service and its partners. I am determined that we will continue to work together to create the service the public want — professional, responsive and grounded in communities. The achievements of the past decade give us much to build on. The next steps in the reform programme set out in this White Paper will help ensure that the police get the support they need as well as the credit they deserve, and strengthen further public confidence in this key service.

Strategic Policing Priorities 2010-11

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): In accordance with the provisions of section 37A of the Police Act 1996, as inserted by paragraph 25 schedule 2 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, this statement sets out my strategic policing priorities for the police service for 2010-11. These priorities provide the national framework for policing for the next financial year, within which police authorities will set their local plans.

Last year, the priorities reflected the radical vision for policing at the heart of the Government's Green Paper, "From the Neighbourhood to the National: policing our communities together", and other national strategies, aimed at putting the public much more at the centre and empowering them to work with us to tackle local crime and ASB. The effect of these initiatives is now starting to be seen. They include the introduction of the Policing Pledge and crime maps in all forces in England and Wales, providing the public with a set of national minimum policing standards to which they are entitled and access to information about crime in their area and empowering them through involvement in neighbourhood policing meetings. Through the "Justice Seen, Justice Done" campaign we have raised public awareness of the rights they should expect.

Elsewhere we are rolling out a programme of police authority inspections and continuing important work on reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and workforce and performance management reform. The policing White Paper will take the principles of the Policing Pledge further with clear standards that the public can expect from other agencies that help to keep them safe and ensure that justice is done.

The thrust of all this work is to allow police officers and police staff to focus on the public's priorities and provide an accessible, transparent and consistent service that meets public needs and expectations. All but one of the top down numerical targets for police forces in England and Wales have now been removed. The remaining target is to increase the public's confidence that the police and their partners are identifying and addressing the crime and ASB issues that matter most locally.

My strategic policing priorities for 2010-11 include particular reference to the single remaining national target on generating public confidence but generally retain the broader vision of the current priorities. This vision focuses on the strategic context in which action is taken at the right level. The priorities acknowledge the policing White Paper and the current set of PSAs and reflect the recently updated crime strategy. Central to this is a renewed focus on tackling the harms caused by antisocial behaviour and requiring victims' concerns to be taken seriously. The Government will continue to monitor performance to ensure PSA commitments are met and provide strategic leadership. However, local accountability and planning should be undertaken so that forces tackle the issues that are most important to their local diverse communities, including hate crime, and get best value for money for the public from the resources devoted to policing.

Forces should continue to work collaboratively with local partners (including through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships and Local Criminal Justice Boards) to meet shared local objectives. In England this includes those objectives that are agreed through local strategic partnerships within local area agreements.

Serious and organised crime is a constantly evolving problem. I believe there is a continuous line stretching from the local to the regional and on to the national which needs a continuum of effective policing in response. The Home Office/Cabinet Office strategy for tackling serious organised crime which was published in July recognises the importance of close working and effective collaboration and coordination between partners; and that means forces and authorities working outside and across individual force boundaries where necessary.

My expectation is that forces and authorities will continue to work in the interests of regions and the country and build on existing collaboration to achieve improvements. Collaboration takes various forms, from tackling serious and cross border crime to the development of the national counter-terrorism network in bringing together intelligence, investigative and operational activity against the terrorist threat. This relies heavily on confidence in policing. The success of a key component of our counter-terrorism strategy — Prevent — depends, in part, in the confidence local communities have in their police service.

The priority must be how building confidence in the service leads to a more effective police service at all levels. There is little benefit in increasing public confidence through local policing and ignoring protective services. These may be services with less of a public face and more uncertain demand, but they have the potential to impact heavily on public confidence if they fall short. Greater collaboration across the police service is essential to mitigate this risk and to realise the necessary improvements in protective services. The same emphasis should apply for specialist crimes.

The police service shares the public service duty to maximise value for money. Locally, it is the responsibility of police authorities to set ambitious targets for the efficiency and productivity gains to be achieved by their forces and to hold chief officers to account for delivery. Senior policing leaders must help drive the organisational change required to make significant improvements in value for money, both in their forces and authorities and working with others taking into account the policing White Paper and the forthcoming report of the High Level Working Group on police Value for Money. This includes getting better value from spending on goods and services through collaboration and by making use of national or regional contracts. As part of the much more robust inspection regime for the service the new police authority inspections will probe how authorities manage resources and people and all forces will be inspected on value for money. During 2010-11 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will test that the police workforce is led, organised and developed to be productive through the Working for the Public Inspection.

In summary, the SPPs for 2010-11 are to:

Continue to increase public confidence so that by March 2012, 60 per cent. of the public agree that the police and local council are dealing with the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter in their local communities.

Work jointly through partners and local communities to reduce and prevent crime and antisocial behaviour and the problems caused by drug and alcohol misuse and youth offending, in line with PSAs 14, 23 and 25, and in a co-ordinated approach with other CJS partners deliver an effective criminal justice response in line with PSA24, putting the needs of victims, including young victims, at its heart.

Work jointly with police forces and other agencies, such as SOCA and UKBA, to ensure that the capability and capacity exists across England and Wales to deliver effective protective services, including tackling serious and organised crime.

Work jointly with and through partners and local communities to tackle terrorism and violent extremism in line with the counter terrorism strategy (CONTEST) and PSA 26.

In all of the above, ensure that value for money is central to the strategic vision for improving policing; that best use is made of resources in line with the policing White Paper and the Efficiency and Productivity Strategy for the Police Service, both within forces and through collaboration between forces and with the wider public sector; and that chief officers and senior leaders are visibly associated with this organisational priority.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 December 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

United Kingdom Accreditation Service

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Minister for Science and Innovation has today made the following statement:

In June of 2008, following a review of the New Approach to technical harmonisation, the 'New Legislative Framework' was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

A key component of the package is EC Regulation 765/08 (accreditation and market surveillance). This regulation will, for the first time, provide a legal framework for the provision of accreditation services across Europe by setting out the provisions for the operation of accreditation. It will enhance the confidence in and quality of conformity assessment (for example testing, certification and inspection) of products and services through the increased use of accreditation. It does this by establishing a system of accreditation that functions by reference to a series of consistent principles to binding rules. It will thus help to strengthen mutual confidence between member states in respect to the competence of conformity assessment bodies and consequently the certificates and test reports issued by them. This reinforced system will help ensure that the conformity assessment bodies provide the high quality services that manufacturers, consumers and public authorities need.

While this regulation is directly applicable law, and applies from 1 January 2010, it requires each member state to appoint a single national accreditation body (NAB).

Since 1995, the Government have recognised the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) as the sole NAB for the UK. Since its establishment by the Department of Trade and Industry, UKAS has played a significant role in the operation of national, European and international accreditation.

I have therefore with statutory instrument 2009 No.3155 formally appointed UKAS as the UK's NAB.

BIS has a long-standing and effective relationship with UKAS that both parties value highly. We will continue to work together not only to ensure that the requirements of EC Regulation 765/08 are fulfilled but to improve the quality and breadth of accreditation in the UK, and that accreditation plays its proper and valued role in the standardisation infrastructure.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Council (7 December 2009)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

In advance of the forthcoming Energy Council in Brussels on 7 December, I am writing to you to outline the agenda items which will be discussed. I will represent the UK.

The first item on the agenda is an update on the energy efficiency package (made up of a directive on the energy performance of buildings; a directive on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy related products; and a directive on the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency). We expect the presidency to provide information on progress. The UK supports the ambition of the individual elements of the energy efficiency package and is happy with the progress made so far.

The Commission will then report on progress on the proposal for a regulation on the security of gas supply. The progress report will be followed by a policy debate, which will be centred around questions provided by the presidency. While many member states are likely to broadly welcome the intention of the draft legislation, which is designed to improve the ability of the EU to withstand a gas security of supply emergency, the UK and others have serious concerns over the extension and open-ended nature of powers that the legislation envisages for the Commission. This is in relation to both national emergency planning and in dealing with an EU emergency.

The Commission will also provide information on the state of play on the economic recovery package for energy; this may be followed by an exchange of views by Ministers. The UK is pleased to see that the Commission is pressing ahead with implementation of the economic recovery package, which we consider a means of stimulating jobs and growth in the short term, improving energy security and laying the foundations for a low-carbon future.

The Commission will report on progress on the proposal for a Council regulation on the notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure within the European Community, followed by a discussion. Other member states are likely to share the UK's concern that any additional reporting burden on Governments and industry is fully justified.

This will be followed by a presentation from the Commission and an exchange of views on the Commission's recent communication on investing in the development of low-carbon technologies (SET-Plan). The UK supports the objectives of the EU's Strategic Energy Technology Plan but has concerns over the financing estimates and expectations outlined in the Commission's communication on financing.

Finally, the Commission and the presidency will provide reports on a number of items on international relations in the field of energy including relations between Ukraine and Russia, the Energy Community Treaty, and the EU-US Energy Council. Discussions of Russia-Ukraine relations are expected to continue over lunch.

Under any other business, the Commission will report on progress in implementing the Baltic energy market interconnection plan.

The Swedish presidency have organised a dinner for Ministers the night before the Council, where a decision on the location of Agency for the co-operation of energy regulators (ACER) is to be taken.

JUSTICE

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons for England and Wales, Dame Anne Owers DBE was appointed in August 2001, initially for five years. Her appointment has been extended but she has now indicated that she will not be seeking a further extension as chief inspector when her current term of office expires at the end of March 2010.

Dame Anne has been justifiably widely admired for the diligence, skill and independence she has brought to the post, and I would like to place on record my own great appreciation for her work.

The Ministry of Justice will shortly be advertising the vacancy and seeking applicants for the chief inspector post. Although the post is not within the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointment will be made using a process which takes account of the Commissioner's code of practice as best practice. I will inform the House once I have selected my preferred candidate for the post.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Topical Debates (Subjects Proposed)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Leader of the House of Commons (Barbara Keeley): This list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted on the floor of the House, by letter, e-mail or another method. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

Week commencing 1 June 2009

"Middle East" (Business Questions)

"Human Rights in China" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 8 June 2009

"Electoral Reform" (Letter)

"Steel Industry" (Business Questions)

"Food Labelling" (Business Questions)

"Public Spending" (Business Questions)

"Economy – Future Investment in Public Spending" (Business Questions)

"Economy" – Effect of Capital Spending" (Business Questions)

"Democratic Reform" (E-mail)

Week commencing 15 June 2009

"Parking Enforcement" (Business Questions)

"Burma" (Business Questions)

"Iran" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 22 June 2009

"Pakistan" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 29 June 2009

"Archer Inquiry – Contaminated Blood" (Business Questions and Letters)

Week commencing 6 July 2009

"Iran" (Letter)

"Effectiveness of Job Centre Plus" (Business Questions)

"Equitable Life" (Business Questions)

"Freedom Passes" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 13 July 2009

"Donaghy Report" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 12 October 2009

"Reporting of proceedings in Parliament" (Business Questions)

"Violence against Women" (Business Questions)

"Territorial Army" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 19 October 2009

"Multilateral Disarmament and Non-proliferation" (E-mail and in person)

"Military Covenant" (Business Questions)

"Royal Mail" (Business Questions)

"Agriculture" (Business Questions)

"Global Food Security" (Business Questions)

"Regionalisation of Fire Brigade Control Centres" (Business Questions)

"Immigration" (Business Questions)

"Fireworks Nuisance" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 26 October 2009

"Military Covenant" (Business Questions)

"Misuse of alcohol and alcohol-related injuries" (Business Questions)

During this period there have been the following Topical Debates:

"The Economy: Supporting Business" on 4 June 2009

"Carers" on 11 June 2009

"Preparing Britain's Economy for the Future" on 18 June 2009

"UK Manufacturing" on 9 July 2009

"Copenhagen Climate Change" 16 July 2009

"Economic Recovery" on 22 October 2009

"Fireworks Safety" on 29 October 2009

TRANSPORT

Road Safety

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

The Department for Transport has recently consulted on the strategy to improve road safety in Great Britain in the next decade and on a number of dangerous behaviours on the road. I have been considering carefully the responses to both these consultations.

Great Britain is among the best performers in the world on road safety. We have made very good progress in reducing the numbers of deaths and serious injuries over the last decade, and it is good news that we met in 2008 the targets for casualty reductions that we set for achievement by the end of 2010.

If we are to continue to make progress in this area, we will need to be effective in tackling the most dangerous behaviours on the roads. Although most drivers are safe and responsible, there is a minority that continues to compromise safety by driving while under the influence of drink and/or drugs. Drink-driving was involved in 430 road deaths in 2008 and research suggests that drug-driving is also a key concern for the public.

Many consultees to our road safety strategy have urged us to take a fresh look at the drink drive limit as part of wider efforts to reduce drink-driving. On drug driving, the police tell us that there are practical problems with enforcing the current drug-driving legislation, including the absence of reliable equipment to identify impairing substances.

Based on the evidence to date, I think there may be a case for reforming the current legal framework covering drink and drug driving. However both topics raise complex legal and practical issues, and I have decided that before I publish a new road safety strategy I should seek further advice on both these topics from an independent expert.

I have therefore asked Sir Peter North to provide me with advice on the merit of specific proposals for changes to the legislative regime for drink and drug driving, reporting by the end of March 2010. Sir Peter is an internationally renowned legal expert whose previous studies include the review of traffic law which led to the Road Traffic Act 1991 and his 1997 report on marches and parades in Northern Ireland which led to the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. It will be a matter for Sir Peter how he proceeds; and he will act wholly independently in publishing his conclusions and advice.

This report will inform the final contents of the next road safety strategy. For drink-driving, the report will advise on the case for changes to the prescribed alcohol limit for driving (either reducing the current limit, or adding a new, lower limit, with an associated revised penalty regime). For drug-driving, the study will advise on whether there is a need for new legislation to make it an offence to drive with a named substance in the body. For both drink and drugs, the study will also set out the likely impacts of any changes on driver behaviour, and the practical steps needed to support introduction of any or revised offence. I have placed a copy of the terms of reference for the review in the House Library.

Once this review has reported, I will consult on its findings.

Petitions

Thursday 19 November 2009

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Equitable Life (Bury St. Edmunds)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Bury St. Edmunds, Stowmarket and Needham Market in England regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000426]

Equitable Life (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Halesowen and Rowley Regis in the West Midlands region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000423]

Petitions

Monday 23 November 2009

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Surface Mining (Shropshire)

The Petition of those opposed to UK Coal's proposals for surface mining in Huntingdon Lane and New Works,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose plans by UK Coal to re-open historic and new surface mining areas in and around New Works and Huntingdon Lane, believing that the proposals are contrary to current energy policies that are attempting to reduce climate change by moving towards more sustainable forms of energy and which reduce CO_2 and carbon emissions; and further declares that the local environment, ecology, highway network, and the quality of life of local residents will be severely undermined should the proposal go ahead.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to put a stop to proposals for surface mining in Huntingdon Lane and New Works.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mark Pritchard, Official Report,* 21 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 855.]

[P000400]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding UK Coal's proposals for surface coal mining in Huntington Lane. He issued his decision on this appeal on 6 October 2009 and the reasons for the decision are set out in the letter. Having issued his decision, the Secretary of State has no further jurisdiction in this matter.

The Government recognise that there is a possibility that surface mining operations will have an impact on local housing and the environment. This is especially so given that minerals can only be extracted where they naturally occur. However, this Government have a robust policy to ensure that the environmental effects of surface mining, and the potential impacts on nearby housing, are properly considered before planning permission may be granted. There are also additional tests applied to proposed extraction in designated areas, such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Government recognise that coal will continue to have an important role in the UK energy mix. Coal reserves are an important national resource, and contribute to the Government's goal of security of energy supplies.

HEALTH

Princess Royal Hospital, Telford

The Petition of residents of the Borough of Telford and The Wrekin and of East Shropshire and others,

Declares that the Petitioners have serious concerns about plans for The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust to cut local health services from the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford; further declares that these cuts aim to generate financial savings alone, and do not fully take into account local clinical and medical needs.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Secretary of State for Health to use his powers to reverse the proposed plans.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mark Pritchard, Official Report,* 27 October 2009; Vol. 498, c. 258 .]

[P000405]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

It is the responsibility of the local NHS to plan, develop and improve health services according to the healthcare needs of the local population.

The Department of Health's 2008 publication "Leading Local Change" makes clear that any changes should be locally led, clinically driven and built upon a sound clinical case for change.

The issue referred to is due to be the subject of a formal local consultation exercise and I am asking the local NHS, through the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority, to ensure that views of the petitioners are taken into account when making their decision.

Petition

Wednesday 25 November 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Equitable Life (Kingston and Surbiton)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Kingston and Surbiton in Greater London and others

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Davey.]*

[P000431]

Petitions

Monday 30 November 2009

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Heywood and Middleton)

The Petition of persons resident in the Heywood and Middleton parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jim Dobbin .]*

[P000438]

Badman Report (Walsall North)

The Petition of persons resident in the Walsall North parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Winnick .]*

[P000437]

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Scallop Dredging, Cardigan Bay

The Petition of people of Ceredigion,

Declares that dredging of the sea bed has been banned and restricted in several areas of the marine environment due to the proven damage that can be caused by intensive and large-scale dredging; further declares that the increased use of dredges in Cardigan Bay has potentially caused severe damage to the marine environment and the habitats of the creatures living there.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to encourage the Welsh Assembly Government to limit the number of scallop dredging boats licensed to dredge for scallops in Cardigan Bay, based on scientific assessments to be carried out while an interim ban is in place.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mark Williams, Official Report, 4 November 2009; Vol. 498, c. 962 .]*

[P000407]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government recognise the potential impacts that intensive dredging could have on the marine environment and the species that live there.

Following concerns over the increasing intensity of scallop dredging that has occurred in Wales over the last two years, Welsh Ministers pledged in February 2009 to undertake a review of the measures in place to manage the Welsh scallop fishery. Welsh Ministers have extended the closed season for scallop dredging in Wales (the fishery had been due to re-open on 1 November 2009) until the 28 February 2010 to protect both scallop stocks and designated European Marine Sites until further technical measures can be brought in via a new Statutory Instrument, which will help to safeguard the fishery and marine environment in Wales. It is anticipated that spatial restrictions will also be incorporated into the Order prior to the 1 March. Survey work due to commence shortly will provide robust evidence which will inform the process of identifying the geographic locations where the fishery should be restricted and where the fishery will be permitted to take place without endangering important marine species and habitats.

It is the view of Welsh Ministers that the necessary protection of the sea bed in Cardigan Bay can be achieved through the closures and technical measures they are putting in place by Statutory Instrument. It is for WAG Ministers to decide how to fulfil their obligations to protect the marine environment.

Petitions

Tuesday 1 December 2009

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Burton)

The Petitions of persons resident in the Burton parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Mrs. Dean.*]

[P000446]

Badman Rejort (West Worcestershire)

The Petition of persons resident in the West Worcestershire parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000447]

Badman Report (Hampstead and Highgate)

The Petition of persons resident in the Hampstead and Highgate parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000449]

Petitions

Wednesday 2 December 2009

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Bath)

The Petition of persons resident in the Bath parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000457]

Badman Report (Cannock Chase)

The Petition of persons resident in the Cannock Chase parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000465]

Badman Report (Easington)

The Petition of persons resident in the Easington parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Cummings .]*

[P000455]

Badman Report (Portsmouth North)

The Petition of persons resident in the Portsmouth North parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000456]

Badman Report (Swansea West)

The Petition of persons resident in the Swansea West parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000458]

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Emma Shamshoum, residents of Thundersley and others,

Declares that the proposed development of 150 houses by Barratt Homes in Thundersley is premature and unacceptable for a number of sound and material planning reasons; is contrary to the extant Development Plan which seeks to retain the land as undeveloped until it has been proved that it is necessary to release it for housing, and alternative sites for future housing are still being considered in the replacement Core Strategy which has not yet been to the Planning Inspector; moreover, the land is identified as a "Local Wildlife Site" which both the current Development Plan and the new Core Strategy are committed to protect; Barratt's plan to cover all the existing open grassland with houses and roads, retaining only a narrow "wildlife corridor" through the centre, is unacceptable; if this application is approved a "green light" will be given for progressive further development until all of "The Chase" green fields and woodland are buried under bricks and concrete; and the development will put the existing infrastructure such as roads, parking, leisure facilities and public services such as schools and doctors under intolerable strain.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Castle Point Borough Council to consider this objection and petition formally and to reject Barratt's proposal and to ensure the matter is dealt with by councillors who can and will then be held to account for their decision.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 12 October 2009; Vol. 497, c. 134.]*

[P000403]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of the above development. He is advised that the application was registered on 1st September.

The determination of planning applications is primarily the responsibility of the Borough Council as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application, or prospective application.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Statement 9, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State may decide to call in an application for his own determination where he considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the proposal may, at some future date come within his jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

Petition

Thursday 3 December 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Billericay)

The Petition of persons resident in the Billericay parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Baron.]*

[P000483]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 November 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Christmas

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas decorations in 2009. [300401]

Mr. Simon: The Department has budgeted £560 for three Christmas trees.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300878]

Mr. Simon: No plans have yet been made for Christmas parties in 2009.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300886]

Mr. Simon: No Ministers or civil servants from this Department are attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on interior decoration in each of the last three years. [300590]

Mr. Simon: The Department spent the following amounts on internal decoration in each of the last three years.

	£
2008-09	14,391
2007-08	84,767
2006-07	[1]—

[1] During this financial year the Department completed a full building refurbishment. It is not possible to separate the cost of internal decoration.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* items of office furniture and *(d)* works of art have been (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each of the last three years; whether his Department made an insurance claim in respect of each such item; and what the estimated value of each item was. [300992]

Mr. Simon: The information is as follows:

(a) My Department has not had any laptops lost or stolen in the last three financial years.

(b) The numbers of lost or stolen mobile phones for each of the last three financial years are:

2006-07: One lost.

2007-08: Four lost. Two stolen.

2008-09: Two lost.

Equipment is not insured. My Department does not record the value of lost mobile phones but as an indication the current replacement cost of a mobile phone is £195.

(c) My Department has not lost any items of office furniture lost or stolen in the last three financial years.

(d) The numbers of lost or stolen works of art for each of the last three financial years are:

2006-07: None.

2007-08: Four lost. Two stolen, but since recovered.

2008-09: Four lost.

None of these items have been lost by the DCMS itself or stolen from DCMS buildings. At any one time approximately 70 per cent. of the Government art collection's holding of over 13,500 works of art is on display in over 400 buildings operated by different Government Departments in the UK and around the world.

No insurance claim has been made for any of the lost items as none of them were commercially insured (HMG carries its own risk). The borrower's commercial insurance was in place for the two items stolen from Somerset House whilst on loan, in February 2008. DCMS did not take the payout because the two items were recovered by the police (in September 2008).

Estimated valuations have not been provided in this answer. In common with other national collections, the Government art collection is normally not commercially insured nor treated as a financial asset. Against a background of constant and volatile fluctuations in the art market, current valuations of every work of art in the collection are not maintained.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300647]

Mr. Simon: In the past three years the Department has paid £5,210.00 to a contractor who exceeded his service level and qualified for an incentive. No bonuses have been paid to either consultants or contractors engaged by the Department in the last three years.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300648]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not hold any central records. To answer this question would incur disproportionate costs. Individual non-departmental public bodies and Executive agencies should be contacted directly as they are responsible for their own contractors.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [300776]

Mr. Simon: The Department recycled 47.29 tonnes of paper in 2008-09. In previous years the Department recorded only the total weight of recycled waste: the weight of recycled paper was not separately recorded.

Departmental Taxis

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on taxis in 2008-09. [300721]

Mr. Simon: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's Travel and Subsistence guidance and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

The Department's expenditure on taxis in 2008-09 was £32,179.

This figure represents expenditure on taxis and black cabs which is separately identified in the Department's accounting system. In addition there is an element of this expenditure included in the general travel and subsistence account which can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* international travel and *(b)* overseas accommodation in respect of staff in each of the last three years. [300591]

Mr. Simon: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's Travel and Subsistence guidance and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

Overall departmental expenditure for international travel and subsistence by officials from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is set out in the following table. To disaggregate travel and accommodation costs would incur disproportionate cost as these are not separately recorded on the Department's accounting system.

International travel and subsistence expenditure by officials

Financial year	£
2008-09	234,100
2007-08	250,550
2006-07	297,830

Football

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Premier League 4 Sport partnerships have so far been set up; and what assessment he has made of their impact. [300366]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To date, 20 Premier League 4 Sport partnerships have been set up comprising all of the football clubs competing in the 2008-09 Premier League season.

Premier League 4 Sport activities began in September 2009. The scheme is a good example of partnership working which will contribute to our ambition of offering every young person five hours of high quality PE and sport per week. In particular, the scheme aims to help young people make the step from school sport into community clubs.

Hall Aitken has been commissioned to evaluate this initiative. We expect to receive details about the numbers of young people who have been engaged in the first term of the scheme in January.

Sports: Television

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the timetable for further steps to be taken in response to the David Davies Review of Listed Events. [300214]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We intend to publish shortly a formal Government consultation on the report's recommendations.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of legal (i) representation and (ii) advice sought by her Department and its agencies in each year since May 1997. [300372]

Tessa Jowell: As my officials report to me through the permanent secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the information requested is incorporated within the answer provided to the hon. Member by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Government Olympic Executive: London Development Agency

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Government Olympic Executive has held discussions with the London Development Agency on altering the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between her and the former Mayor of London; and if she will make a statement. [300216]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive has not held any discussions with the London Development Agency about altering the terms of the memorandum of understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London on Olympic funding.

National Lottery: Grants

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which community projects have received direct funding from the Olympic Lottery Distribution since its inception. [300215]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD), which is an independent public body, publishes details of its grants in its annual report and on its website at www.olympiclotterydistributor.org.uk:

http://www.olympiclotterydistributor.org.uk

The OLD has to date not made any grants to community projects but it has plans to support community projects in the five Olympic boroughs. The OLD is in the process of developing a £4 million funding round for these purposes, with a view to inviting formal applications for grants in 2010.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police stations in Northern Ireland have closed permanently in the last four years; and how many police personnel posts have been freed for other duties as a result of such closures in the same period. [300458]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse such flights were taken. [300420]

Ann McKechin: In 2008-09 officials in the Scotland Office took 231 domestic return flights within Great Britain at a total cost of £67,608.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299696]

Ann McKechin: Dover House is required under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 to have and display a copy of a display energy certificate. A copy of the certificate has been placed in the House Library. The regulations do not apply to our Edinburgh branch.

Unemployment

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the level of economic inactivity in Scotland. [300318]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State for Scotland has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, most recently on 17 November about the specific challenges of economic inactivity in Glasgow.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in her Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300996]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to include any DWP Ministers or officials in the delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the payment of the full basic state pension to all those reaching the state retirement age in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [300693]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse such flights were taken. [300421]

Chris Mole: This information is not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles have been given away by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency as prizes for motorists taxing their vehicles online in *(a)* 2009 to date and *(b)* the previous three calendar years; what has been the cost to the public purse of these prizes; and for what reasons such gifts are assessed to be necessary. [300474]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency introduced a prize draw for motorists taxing or declaring their vehicle off the road, either online or by telephone in July 2008.

During 2008, 18 cars were awarded as prizes and 30 cars have been awarded so far this year. All the cars have been supplied free of charge by the manufacturer. There has been no cost to the public purse.

The prize draw is part of a marketing strategy to increase awareness and use of the automated service and has helped raise take-up to 50 per cent. for tax discs due on 1 August 2009.

Railways: Franchises

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1103W, on railways: franchises, in which dispute in October 2006 the Department made a payment; and what the monetary value was of the payment. [300508]

Chris Mole: I refer my hon. Friend, to my answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 205W.

Stratford Station

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish the report commissioned by his Department from Oliver Wyman on the use of Stratford as a Eurostar station after 2012. [300218]

Chris Mole: The Oliver Wyman study was commissioned by Eurostar and not the Department for Transport. The Department is therefore not in a position to publish the study.

The Government understands that Eurostar has considered the potential markets that could be served by Stratford International station and that no firm decision has been made on the use of this station for passenger services after 2012.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Capital Punishment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Belarus on the death sentence passed on a young man in that country on 29 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [300402]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Vasily Yuzepchuk and Andrei Zhuk have been sentenced to death in Belarus this year.

We, and EU partners, have raised their cases with the Belarusian authorities on a number of occasions. We also took part in a European Commission press conference on 12 October 2009 to mark World Day Against the Death Penalty. EU member states are working with local and international non-governmental organisations to promote public debate, and publicise EU views on the death penalty.

We continue to urge Belarus to abolish the death penalty or, as an initial measure, to introduce a moratorium. A moratorium would be beneficial for the development of EU-Belarus relations, and is a pre-requisite for enhanced relations with the Council of Europe. We have agreed with Spain that the death penalty will be one of four priority areas when the UK holds the local presidency on behalf of Spain in the first half of 2010.

China: Fur

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Chinese authorities on the regulation of Chinese fur farms; and if he will make a statement. [300359]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Given the very wide range of issues we pursue with China in our bilateral relationship, our ability to focus on animal welfare issues specifically with our Chinese counterparts is limited. However the UK has worked with our European partners to introduce an EU-wide ban on the trade in domestic cat and dog fur and products containing such fur, which came into force on 1 January 2009.

We also welcome the work of organisations like the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Care for the Wild and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. These organisations work with the Chinese authorities to improve standards of animal welfare and to gradually build support for animal-welfare issues in China.

We support work to raise standards of animal welfare at home and abroad and have played an active role in promoting good welfare standards internationally. However, we believe that it is for the authorities in each country to introduce and enforce the necessary legislation to promote good animal welfare in their countries.

Hanslope Park

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff are employed in each department at Hanslope Park. [300542]

Chris Bryant: There are 145 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff at Hanslope Park, working in nine departments, as follows:

Department	*Staff*
Change and Delivery	5
Consular	2
Change Unit	1
Defence and Intelligence	1
Finance	14
Human Resources	40
IT	68
Security and Estates	14

There are also 605 FCO Services staff at Hanslope Park.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Milton Keynes Council and *(b)* Hanslope Parish Council on future developments at Hanslope Park. [300543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials meet Milton Keynes Council as and when necessary, for example on planning issues. The most recent meetings have been discussions about a Green Travel Plan for staff based at Hanslope Park. There have been no recent meetings with Hanslope parish council.

Morocco: British Nationality

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Morocco on the number of applications for citizenship it has received from *(a)* citizens and *(b)* residents of Morocco in the last 12 months. [301421]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the Government of Morocco on citizenship applications in the last 12 months.

Nepal: Religious Freedom

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the incidence of religiously-motivated violence against Christians and Muslims in Nepal, with particular reference to the activities of the Nepal Defence Army; and if he will make a statement. [300299]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Religiously motivated attacks against Christians and Muslims are rare in Nepal. However, the Nepal Defence Army (NDA), an extremist Hindu fundamentalist group, has carried out a number of attacks, including a bomb attack on a Catholic church in Kathmandu on 23 May 2009 in which three people were killed, the murder of a Catholic priest at Dharan in July 2008, and a bomb attack on a Muslim mosque in Biratnagar in March 2008, in which two people were killed.

The Nepalese Prime Minister and political leaders from across the political spectrum swiftly condemned the attack in May and visited the church and the victims. The Nepal police launched a prompt investigation into the incident and have arrested both the women responsible for placing the bomb and four leaders of the NDA, including its chairman, R. P. Mainali.

Secret Intelligence Service: Security

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much the Secret Intelligence Service spent on security for *(a)* Sir Richard Dearlove in the six months prior to September 1999, *(b)* Sir John Sawers in the six months prior to November 2009 and *(c)* Sir John Scarlett in the six months prior to May 2004; [300749]

(2) how much the Secret Intelligence Service spent on security for the families of *(a)* Sir Richard Dearlove in the six months prior to September 1999, *(b)* Sir John Sawers in the six months prior to November 2009 and *(c)* Sir John Scarlett in the six months prior to May 2004; [300750]

(3) whether it put in place security measures to protect Sir John Sawers and his close family members as a result of his identification on the internet. [300751]

David Miliband: It is the long standing policy of the Government not to comment on the personal security arrangements for individual members of Secret Intelligence Staff and their families.

Western Sahara: Landmines

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 548W, on Western Sahara: landmines, whether the Moroccan authorities are marking and disposing of mines and unexploded ordinance in the occupied territory of Western Sahara. [301035]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In his report of 13 April 2009, the Secretary-General of the UN detailed Moroccan efforts to destroy mines, unexploded ordnance and expired ammunition.

The Royal Moroccan Army reported to the UN Secretary-General that its de-mining units had processed 420 square kilometres between 1 May 2008 and 28 February 2009 as part of a comprehensive mine clearance operation in Western Sahara, west of the Berm.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the value for money of the fees charged by the Audit Commission for auditing the annual accounts of town and parish councils; and if he will make a statement. [300248]

Barbara Follett: We have made no such assessment. It is for the independent Audit Commission, after consultation, to set the fees charged by them for auditing the annual accounts of town and parish councils.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of answering Questions 292544 to 292558, 292572 to 292585, 292587 to 292595, 292615 to 292635, 292637, 292639 to 292645, 292663, 292664, 292690 to 292708, 292710 to 292714, 292723, 292725 to 292735, 292737 to 292740, 292742 to 292750, 292752 to 292757, 292802 to 292827, 292839 to 292861, 292863, 292865 to 292899, 292975 to 292978, 292983 to 293005, 293010, 293015, 293020 to 293028, 293031, 293032 and 293035 tabled on 9 October 2009 by the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) for written answer on 13 October 2009. [301026]

Barbara Follett: The average cost of answering a written question is £149, as set out in the written ministerial statement made by the former Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS. The estimated cost of answering the 250 questions tabled by the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 9 October 2009 would therefore be £37,250.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of his Department's officials have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300962]

Barbara Follett: No departmental officials have been reprimanded, had their contract of employment terminated or been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in any of the previous three years.

Departmental Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of local government employees earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300816]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; how many in year bonuses were paid in 2008-09; and how much was paid out in bonuses in each year. [301016]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the number of year end performance bonuses that were paid to staff in Communities and Local Government over the last three years.

Category of Employee	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	83	104	102
All staff below SCS	301	391	570
Total Cost (£)	838,250	1,018,350	1,284,547

The Department also has a Special Bonus Scheme to reward exceptional performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. The maximum bonus under these arrangements is £600 but records are not yet available to show the number of in-year payments made under this scheme.

Departmental Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* items of office furniture and *(d)* works of art have been (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each of the last three years; whether his Department has made an insurance claim against each such item; and what the estimated value of each item was. [300993]

Barbara Follett: The following table identifies the number of laptops and mobile phones that have been reported lost or stolen from this Department in each of the last three years, together with the approximate value of each item.

	Stolen	*Value (£)*	*Lost*	*Value (£)*
Lap top computers				
2006-07	7	2,100	0	0
2007-08	9	5,600	0	0
2008-09	5	1,500	0	0
Mobile phones				
2006-07		300	1	200
2007-08	2	200	0	0
2008-09	1	100	2	100

The Department has not had any items of office furniture or works of art stolen or lost in this period nor has it made any insurance claim for any item referenced.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* funded and *(c)* undertaken on fire safety in rented properties; and if he will make a statement. [300220]

Mr. Malik: We have not commissioned, funded or undertaken any research specifically on rented properties. Various projects in the fire and resilience research programme have included rented accommodation along with other types of premises, e.g.:

Cost-effectiveness of sprinklers in high risk buildings

Cost-effectiveness of sprinklers for offsetting fire cover for new homes

An evaluation of the Fire Safety Order.

Government Hospitality Unit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many functions his Department has hosted in each of the last three years; and at which such functions the services of the Government Hospitality Unit were provided. [300434]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Heating

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new domestic dwellings which use *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas as their primary source of heat have been built since 1997. [300584]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on primary heat source is not available for dwellings built since 1997. The English House Condition Survey provides an estimate for the main fuel type used in all housing built after 1990. The survey estimates that in 2007 there were 2,531,000 dwellings that had been built after 1990, of which 2,149,000 (84.9 per cent.) used gas as their main fuel and 264,000 (10.4 per cent.) used electricity. Virtually all other post-1990 dwellings used oil.

Housing: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses were completed in Milton Keynes unitary authority in each of the last 12 months. [300548]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on house building completions is collected quarterly, and is not available on a monthly basis.

The following table shows the number of houses completed in Milton Keynes unitary authority in each of the last four quarters.

House building completions in Milton Keynes unitary authority

Quarter	*Completions*
2008	
October to December	358
2009	
January to March	308
April to June	325
July to September	567

Source:

New build completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Housing: Prices

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on house prices, by what means his Department establishes a 1991 sale price for a newly constructed property in Yate, South Gloucestershire for council tax banding purposes. [301033]

Barbara Follett: In England, the Valuation Office Agency is responsible for ascribing a property to a council tax band, based on its expected sale price on 1 April 1991. Therefore, a property built in 2009 would be banded for council tax by reference to: (1) sales of newly built properties of a similar size, character and location that were sold on or around 1 April 1991: (2) the council tax band of similar tax band of similar properties already on the list: (3) the outcomes of any proposals made by tax payers on similar properties in the area: (4) any Valuation Tribunal decision affecting similar properties in the locality

Local Government: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in salary and wage costs for local government employees in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the proportion paid to such employees who earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300845]

Barbara Follett: In the latest year for which figures are available, 2007-08, total pay including employers National Insurance and Pensions contributions for all local government staff including teachers, police and fire fighters, was £58.8 billion. Further information is available from:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1240028.pdf

No estimate has been made of the proportion paid to employees who earn £50,000 per annum. This information is not collected centrally.

Planning Permission: Appeals

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS on planning appeals, what guidance he has issued to *(a)* Government offices and *(b)* local authorities on the reasons for which a residential development of over 150 units might be considered to have an impact sufficiently significant to instigate a recovery of a planning appeal by the Secretary of State. [300428]

Mr. Ian Austin: As the power to recover planning appeals rests with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and is exercised on his behalf by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), no such guidance has been issued or is necessary.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times he has exercised his powers to recover a planning appeal under section 79 and paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in each year since 2005. [300722]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table sets out the number of times the powers under section 79 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been exercised in England to recover appeals made under section 78 of that Act for decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The figures relate to calendar years.

	Total
2005	228
2006	166
2007	123
2008	104
2009 (to 30 September)	32

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in each London local authority were placed in temporary accommodation in each other London local authority area in 2008. [300400]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Data collected on temporary accommodation include the number of households placed in temporary accommodation by each London local authority at the end of each quarter, including the number housed in a different local authority district. However, information on which different local authority area these households were housed in is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of households in temporary accommodation in each London borough on 30 June 2009, and of those the number which were housed in another local authority district:

London local authority	*Number in temporary accommodation*	*Of which: in another LA district*
Barking and Dagenham	611	0
Barnet	2,305	52
Bexley	217	64
Brent	3,540	256
Bromley	930	36
Camden	890	109
City of London	19	19
Croydon	1,444	0
Ealing	1,736	41
Enfield	2,649	5
Greenwich	229	43
Hackney	1,515	14
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,015	303
Haringey	4,401	1,032
Harrow	645	0
Havering	545	[1]
Hillingdon	1,150	0
Hounslow	826	90
Islington	861	297
Kensington and Chelsea	1,005	910
Kingston upon Thames[1]	654	[1]
Lambeth	1,779	901
Lewisham	1,630	24
Merton	77	1
Newham	4,326	1,356
Redbridge	2,524	181
Richmond upon Thames	192	25
Southwark	673	94
Sutton	236	21
Tower Hamlets	2,376	418
Waltham Forest	1,631	160
Wandsworth	677	64
Westminster	2,504	765

[1] Data not reported.

Tenants: Deposits

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has plans to alter the threshold for the tenant deposit protection scheme. [300256]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's response to the Review of the Private Rented Sector, published for consultation in May, announced our intention to review the annual rental threshold for assured and assured shorthold tenancies. This threshold currently excludes tenancies with annual rents of more than £25,000 from being assured shorthold tenancies, with the implication that any deposits taken do not have to be protected under the tenancy deposit protection scheme. The consultation closed in August. We have been considering the responses received and plan to publish the results shortly.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of tenants in houses of multiple occupation whose deposits are not protected under the tenancy deposit scheme. [300257]

Mr. Ian Austin: Over 1.6 million deposits for tenants with assured shorthold tenancies have been protected since tenancy deposit protection provisions commenced in April 2007. We do not hold figures on the proportion or number of deposits that are unprotected.

TREASURY

Business: Billing

Anne Moffat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of the time to pay measures. [300367]

Mr. Timms: The Business Payment Support Service was launched on 24 November 2008 to support viable businesses in temporary financial difficulties. Up to 15 November 2009, the service has agreed over 231,600 time to pay arrangements with businesses to spread tax payments of £4.07 billion.

This has helped to support over 150,000 businesses, the vast majority of whom are small and medium sized, that employ an estimated 600,000 people. Over 90 per cent. of the value of arrangements is being paid in line with agreed instalments.

Businesses tell us that they have found the service very helpful by giving them the breathing space they need and by helping them pay their tax bills in a managed and structured way with the full help and support of HM Revenue and Customs.

Corporation Tax: Credit Unions

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the levying of corporation tax on credit unions; and if he will make a statement. [300864]

Mr. Timms: As industrial and provident societies, credit unions are liable to corporation tax as any other company but subject to specific exemptions under section 486 and 487 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. This legislation provides that the principal activity carried out by a credit union, namely making loans to its members, is not liable for corporation tax. However, credit unions are liable on their investment income and any chargeable gains arising.

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in corporation tax by credit unions in each of the last five financial years; and how much he estimates will be paid *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [300865]

Mr. Timms: The figures requested are not available because it is not possible to identify credit unions from other credit providers through corporation tax records.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department carried out a regulatory impact assessment on new tax rules for furnished holiday lettings included in the Budget 2009. [300324]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 263W.

VAT

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to complete the review of the de minimis rules on value added tax; and when any changes to the rules will be announced. [300365]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) consulted on proposals to simplify the VAT Partial Exemption and Capital Goods Scheme rules in summer 2008, as part of the wider VAT simplification review. That consultation included the de minimis rules.

Responses to the consultation confirmed widespread support for taking this work forward over a three-year period, focusing on the standard method for partial exemption in 2008-09, the de minimis rules and non-business interaction in 2009-10 and the Capital Goods Scheme in 2010-11. The consultation and a summary of the responses, entitled: "Simplifying the Value Added Tax Partial Exemption and Capital Goods Scheme Rules", are available on HMRC's website.

In line with the responses, changes to simplify the standard method were introduced on 1 April 2009. HMRC is currently working on the 2009-10 programme, which includes the de minimis rules, and hopes to announce any changes arising from this work early next year.

VAT: Health Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* pharmacy contractors and *(b)* appliance contractors are zero rated for value added tax when supplying products and service on NHS Form F.P.10; and if he will make a statement. [300370]

Mr. Timms: When they are dispensed to an individual for their personal use, by a registered pharmacist, against a prescription issued by a doctor, dentist, or certain other health professionals with prescribing rights (whether on form FP 10 or otherwise), most drugs and medicines are zero-rated for VAT. There is no similar zero rate for goods supplied against a prescription by appliance contractors, although zero-rating may apply to certain goods supplied by such contractors to disabled people for their personal use, or to charities for use by disabled people, without a prescription.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of nutrition provided to troops in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [300303]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 399W, to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne).

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of enemy losses in Helmand province in the last 12 months. [300459]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK does not routinely collate or maintain an overall estimate of the number of insurgents killed in Afghanistan. The long-term strategy for defeating the insurgency in Afghanistan is not as a purely military campaign, but rather through a wide range of military and non-military activities. Therefore, the number of insurgents killed or injured during the campaign does not provide a useful measure of success.

Aircraft Carriers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what overseas dockyards have been considered by his Department as potential support locations for the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers. [300660]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The in-service support solution for the Queen Elizabeth (QE) class aircraft carriers has yet to reach its main investment decision point, and so no decision has yet been taken on this issue. All options for QE class docking will be thoroughly examined; this will include potential location and commercial options for docking work. While overseas locations have not been ruled out, given the nature of these ships and security issues, it is unlikely that this would provide the best solution.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 223W, on armed forces: housing, what the average monthly rent under the substitute service single accommodation scheme was in each post code area in Greater London in the latest period for which figures are available; what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum amount paid in rent in each such area was; how many personnel at each (i) staff officer rank and (ii) equivalent Civil Service payband were accommodated under the scheme in that period; and how much was paid out under the scheme in that period. [300246]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently rents 1,113 Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) properties in Greater London to accommodate 1,330 Service personnel. The following tables include all SSSA properties within each postcode area. Details of average, maximum and minimum rents, together with the total monthly rent for all SSSA properties as at 20 November is provided in the following table:

Postcode	*Number of properties*	*Highest (£)*	*Lowest (£)*	*Average (£)*	*Total monthly rent (£)*
BR	5	1,248	780	973	4,862.75
CR	8	969	700	783.05	6,264.40
DA	2	1,101	990	1,046	2,091.05
E	204	2,202	805	1,392.08	283,985.24
EC	9	1,687	1,100	1,309.69	11,787.17
EN	1	1,025	1,025	1,025	1,025.00
HA	8	1,425	575	1,006.88	8,055.00
IG	4	1,198	770	987.65	3,950.60
KT	18	1,460	675	1,004.73	18,085.20
N	25	1,845	875	1,271.87	31,796.84
NW	60	2,150	950	1,460.33	87,620.02
RM	5	1,000	742	828.43	4,142.17
SE	173	2,513	675	1,281.68	221,730.11
SM	2	764	675	719.35	1,438.70
SW	460	3,275	725	1,347.70	619,943.95
TW	53	2,050	725	1,102.01	58,406.75
UB	1	775	775	775	775
W	70	2,192	730	1,214.31	85,001.76
WC	1	1,517	1,517	1,516.67	1,516.67
WD	4	1,915	725	1,053.70	4,214.79

The ranks of the personnel currently occupying these properties is shown in the following table. SSSA is provided to entitled, Serving Armed Forces personnel in cases where Single Living Accommodation either does not exist or is not available at or close to their permanent duty station. SSSA is not available to civilian personnel.

Postcode	*Rear Admiral/ Major General/Air Vice Marshall and above*	*Commodore/ Brigadier/Air Commodore*	*Captain/ Colonel/ Group Captain*	*Commander/ Lieutenant Colonel/Major/ Wing Commander/ Squadron Leader*	*Other junior officers*	*Chief Petty Officer/ Warrant Officer/Staff Sergeant/Flight Sergeant*	*Leading Rating/ Corporal and below*
BR	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
CR	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
DA	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
E	0	2	8	66	10	96	108
EC	0	0	0	2	1	8	3
EN	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
HA	1	0	0	1	0	5	1
IG	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
KT	0	0	2	6	3	7	1
N	0	0	0	11	7	10	3
NW	0	0	1	30	6	30	12
RM	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
SE	4	1	12	99	11	56	17
SM	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SW	9	27	61	330	65	22	10
TW	1	1	3	19	1	27	5
UB	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
W	1	3	7	31	11	18	4
WC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
WD	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Total	16	34	95	600	115	299	171

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for repair call-outs were received by Modern Housing Solutions in each region in each of the last 12 months. [300762]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of repair jobs raised in the last 12 months as a result of calls to Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) is provided in the table.

	Zone						
	East	*London*	*North*	*South East*	*South West*	*West*	*Total*
November 2008	2,833	3,285	2,617	4,433	5,062	1,532	19,762
December 2008	2,424	2,962	2,152	4,123	4,600	1,367	17,628
January 2009	3,137	4,017	2,778	5,758	6,469	2,204	24,363
February 2009	2,658	3,024	2,221	4,236	4,916	1,463	18,518
March 2009	2,759	3,228	2,346	4,714	5,477	1,630	20,154
April 2009	2,339	2,722	2,121	4,058	5,023	1,325	17,588
May 2009	2,510	2,610	1,945	3,989	4,627	1,411	17,092
June 2009	3,123	2,819	2,085	4,148	4,670	1,336	18,181
July 2009	3,318	3,044	2,401	4,575	5,048	1,514	19,900
August 2009	2,531	2,787	2,118	4,464	5,092	1,668	18,660
September 2009	2,953	3,300	2,457	4,790	5,566	1,560	20,626
October 2009	3,212	3,481	2,560	5,043	5,732	1,644	21,672

MHS provide a comprehensive repair and maintenance service to occupants of service family accommodation in England and Wales. Repair requests range from emergencies such as burst water pipes to routine tasks associated with the everyday wear and tear of domestic occupation. Figures also include work orders raised in relation to communal areas, children's playgrounds and other facilities managed by MHS.

Armed Forces: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of armed forces personnel earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300812]

Mr. Kevan Jones: At 1 September 2009, there were 14,430 personnel earning more than £50,000 per annum in gross basic pay, including X Factor but excluding allowances, which represents 8.5 per cent. of trained UK Regular Armed Forces personnel.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in salary and wage costs for armed forces personnel in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the proportion paid to such personnel who earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300846]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For Financial Year 2008-09 the total bill for basic gross pay for Regular and Reserve forces, including X Factor but excluding allowances, was £5,928,226,958.00.

An estimated total of £934,300,000.00 (15.76 per cent. of total basic pay) was paid to those personnel earning more than £50,000 per annum.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300885]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department of Energy and Climate Change will determine the official UK delegation list. This list is not finalised, but at present does not contain any MOD Ministers or officials.

Nevertheless, the MOD takes the issue of climate change seriously and recognises the importance of achieving a strong international agreement to address climate change, which will also be of benefit for future global stability and security. In December 2008 the MOD published a climate change strategy, which can be found online at:

www.mod.uk

Defence: Procurement

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the stages were of the procurement process for the new sniper rifle sight recently deployed by the army. [300349]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The original requirement was for a number of Sniper Thermal Imaging Capability (STIC) systems as an Urgent Operational Requirement. This was advertised in the Defence Contracts Bulletin and eight companies expressed an interest. Five companies were unable to meet the key requirement to provide a thermal device that would work in line with the in-service day sight, and a further two companies could not supply equipment in time for user trials. The remaining company's equipment was trialled, modified in the light of the trials results and a contract for the supply of STIC was agreed with Qioptiq Ltd. in March 2008. Since the initial contract further STIC units have been ordered from the company. The Sniper Thermal Imaging Capability was introduced into service in July 2008.

Departmental Empty Property

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties owned by his Department had been unused for *(a)* under three, *(b)* between three and six, *(c)* between six and 12, *(d)* between 12 and 24 and *(e)* between 24 and 36 months on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such properties had been unused for over five years on that date. [300674]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held in the format requested and is not held centrally. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Defence keeps its estate in Great Britain, around 240,000 hectares, under continual review to ensure that it is no larger than is required for defence purposes. Land and property may be used temporarily, or be vacant for periods, for many reasons and no central record is maintained.

Departmental Marketing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on advertising in the last 12 months. [301404]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 34W.

Investment Approvals Board

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what programmes the Investment Approvals Board has under consideration; and by what date the Board is expected to make its determination in each case. [300210]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Investment Approvals Board considers all major investment projects undertaken by the Department both out of committee and at its meetings. The board sets no rigid timetable; cases are considered once they are sufficiently mature.

Territorial Army: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he made of the likely effect on Territorial Army training of the original £20 million reduction in the Territorial Army budget made in the current financial year. [300538]

Bill Rammell: The effect of the £20 million reduction in Territorial Army activity this year was to suspend the majority of training activity that was not directly supporting preparations for Operations. Following the Defence Secretary's subsequent announcement on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 353, an additional £20 million has been provided to enable routine Territorial Army activity to continue for the remainder of the year. Commanding Officers have been revising their training plans to reflect this clear direction.

HEALTH

Antibiotics

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on each brand of antibiotics in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [300254]

Phil Hope: The net ingredient cost by brand of drug for each primary care trust, in the period specified, has been placed in the Library.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1165W, on chronic fatigue syndrome, what discussions his Department has had with myalgic encephalomyelitis charities and campaign groups on recognition of the condition as a notifiable disease. [300427]

Ann Keen: Since 2007, the Department of Health has received a large number of requests from many organisations, including chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) stakeholders, campaigning for their disease or condition to be recognised as a notifiable disease. The Department's position remains that this classification should be used only for a relatively small number of infectious diseases where monitoring is required to identify sources of infection, and not as a means for collecting statistical information on the prevalence of specific conditions.

We have had no recent discussions with CFS/ME charities or campaign groups on this issue.

Health: Screening

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health checks for those aged between 40 and 74 years were carried out by general practitioners in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [300255]

Ann Keen: The NHS Health Check programme is a systematic programme that assesses all those eligible between the ages of 40 and 74 for their risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. The aim is to identify people's risk of these diseases earlier and support them to reduce their risk through lifestyle changes, such as smoking cessation or weight management programme, or through clinical management such as prescribing statins.

Primary care trusts began phased implementation of the NHS Health Check programme in April 2009. General practitioners were not, therefore, carrying out NHS health checks before then. Prior to this, some primary care trusts did have similar programmes in place that general practitioners were involved in. However, we do not collect information centrally about these.

Hepatitis

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility *(a)* his Department, *(b)* strategic health authorities, *(c)* NHS hospital trusts and *(d)* primary care trusts have for implementing the Hepatitis C Action Plan for England; what recent assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of the Plan; and if he will make a statement. [301148]

Gillian Merron: The Department has set a national framework in the Hepatitis C Action Plan for England (2004) for the national health service and other key stakeholders to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for implementing the action plan at the local level and commissioning services from NHS hospital trusts and others according to local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for seeing that appropriate local NHS arrangements are in place to meet the objectives of the action plan.

The NHS has made significant progress in implementing the Action Plan. For example, the Association of Greater Manchester PCTs is funding a local hepatitis C strategy to improve and co-ordinate local services. NHS East Midlands has developed a regional hepatitis C strategy overseen by a regional multi-agency group. The Department has supported implementation of the Action Plan since 2004 with an ongoing national hepatitis C awareness campaign for healthcare professionals and the public.

Surveillance of hepatitis C testing, diagnosis and prescribing indicates that more patients with hepatitis C are being tested, diagnosed and treated.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to revise its leaflet on mobile telephones and health. [300228]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not intend to change the leaflet on mobile telephones and health. The advice given to the public remains as in our current leaflet on mobile phones, which can be viewed on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4123979

and companion leaflet on base stations at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4123980

Copies of both leaflets have been placed in the Library.

The Department keeps these leaflets under review.

North Central London Service and Organisational Review

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what targets have been set in relation to the savings to be made as a consequence of the North Central London Service and Organisational Review; and if he will make a statement; [300417]

(2) what timetable has been set for the public consultation on the North Central London Service and Organisational Review; and if he will make a statement. [300418]

Phil Hope: These are matters for the local national health service.

Pregnancy: Influenza

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to ensure that Celvapan will be made available to pregnant women who have declined to be vaccinated with Pandemrix; [300461]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* Pandemrix and *(b)* Celvapan are made available to pregnant women by primary care trusts. [300462]

Gillian Merron: Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to complications should they get swine flu and so the Department strongly recommends that pregnant women should have the vaccine. Health care staff have been given the extensive information to provide to their patients about the vaccine, how it will protect them and how it has been tested to ensure safety. This information is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/swinefluvaccinetools

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has recommended that pregnant women should be given Pandemrix since a one-dose schedule with this vaccine appears to give adequate levels of antibodies and thereby confers more rapid protection than would be afforded by a two-dose schedule. Expert scientific advice is clear that thiomersal-containing vaccines, such as Pandemrix, do not present a risk to pregnant women or their offspring. However, as it is better to be vaccinated than not at all, if a pregnant woman does not wish to receive Pandemrix despite receiving clear advice about the more rapid protection this would offer, we have advised that primary care trusts should ensure that there are arrangements in place for the woman to be able to receive Celvapan, and that general practitioners are aware of these.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* children, *(b)* adults aged between 18 and 65 years and *(c)* older people who (i) have and (ii) have not been vaccinated against swine influenza in (A) England and (B) each county and metropolitan area. [300661]

Gillian Merron: At this stage, no national health service wide data are available on the uptake of swine flu vaccinations given either by general practitioners (GPs) to priority groups or by trusts to frontline health and social care workers.

The Department plans to release NHS-wide vaccine uptake data on a regular basis both for vaccinations administered by GPs to priority groups and by trusts to frontline health and social care workers once these data have been collected, collated and validated. We anticipate that data will be available for publication in December 2009.

Townlands Hospital

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable for re-development of Townlands Hospital in Henley-on-Thames is; what funding will be allocated to ensure its completion; and what risk assessment has been undertaken in relation to future revenue funding for the hospital. [300361]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. Planning for services is a matter for the local national health service.

Whittington Hospital

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all of the proposals made to the North Central London Service and Organisation Review include the Whittington Hospital, Islington, having a *(a)* 24 hour accident and emergency unit and *(b)* full intensive care unit; and if he will make a statement. [300416]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the local national health service.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans there are to consult civil society organisations on the structure and mandate of the new single UN agency for women. [300425]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have worked tirelessly alongside groups such as the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR) for the General Assembly agreement on a single United Nations agency for women.

The current task is to make this agency a reality. We are continuing to consult GEAR members and other civil society groups such as the Gender and Development Network (GAD), Women's National Commission (WNC) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) UK in this task. Consultations with civil society groups on the structure and mandate of the new agency will continue as the negotiations go on in the General Assembly.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with the UN Secretary General on the appointment of an Under Secretary General to head the new single UN agency for women; when he expects that post to be filled; and if he will request the UN Secretary General to adopt the selection criteria presented to him by the Gender Equality Architecture Reform coalition. [300426]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have been in regular contact with the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General's office in recent months about the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General to head the new gender agency. We are pressing for an appointment to be made before the Beijing +15 review in March 2010.

The UK, along with other member states, is encouraging the Secretary-General to adopt an open and transparent recruitment process that will select the best candidate for the job against agreed criteria, and to encourage as strong a field of candidates as possible.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Cast Iron: Manufacturing Industries

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the *(a)* supply and *(b)* quality of cast iron for use in UK industry. [300245]

Ian Lucas: We have made no such assessments. The foundry sector has reduced in size slightly in recent years as most basic iron casting work is now carried out by producers in low cost countries such as China. However, the UK does have a number of successful castings companies concentrating on higher value-added products for use in a wide range of technically-demanding applications including aerospace, oil, gas and power generation. The quality of these products is regarded as world-class and the UK also benefits from a leading R and D organisation, Castings Technology International.

The castings sector has faced serious challenges as a result of the economic downturn and although this has resulted in some short time working and redundancies, particularly amongst companies supplying the automotive and construction sectors, a recent recovery in order books has left many foundries in a better shape than they might otherwise have been.

Company Liquidations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many liquidations commenced in each of the last five years. [300786]

Ian Lucas: The number of liquidations started in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

	Total liquidations	*Compulsory liquidations*	*Creditors voluntary liquidations*
2004	12,192	4,584	7,608
2005	12,893	5,233	7,660
2006	13,137	5,418	7,719
2007	12,507	5,165	7,342
2008	15,535	5,494	10,041
2009[1] (to end September)	14,705	4,328	10,377

This information has been taken from the Insolvency Services' Official Statistics for Company Liquidations, which are available on their website at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/historicdata/CompanyLiquidations.xls

Departmental Contracts for Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2070W, on departmental pay, in respect of staff employed in London working for his Department on contracted out services, what the name was of each employer, including in respect of contracts that have been sub-let and business that has been awarded where the contract is not exclusive to London; what the nature was of the work undertaken on each contract; how many staff of each grade were employed at each location on each contract; what the length was of the contract in each case; and what union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [300826]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people took part in paid market research to improve the Department's website at the end of October 2009; and how much each person was paid to take part in such research. [300746]

Mr. McFadden: 31 people took part in a series of focus groups. Each participant was paid £60. A number of BIS staff were also involved in this phase of research, but none received payment.

Eight people took part in a series of one-to-one sessions. Each was paid £50.

The rates paid in both phases are in line with industry standards, as recommended by the research agency.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the results of the paid market research undertaken at the end of October 2009 to improve the Department's website; and what changes *(a)* have been and *(b)* are planned to be made to the website as a consequence of that research. [300747]

Mr. McFadden: The research is being used to inform the design of the new BIS website, due to be launched in March 2010.

The results of the research are currently being analysed, so no changes have yet been made or planned.

A summary of the research results will be published once the analysis phase has been completed.

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants from *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley did not get a place at university in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [300235]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not held centrally.

Higher Education: Historic Buildings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 169-170W on higher education: historic buildings, how much each university received from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to support old and historic buildings under the fixed targeted allocation in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [300338]

Mr. Lammy: The allocations for 2008/09 are as follows.

	£
Anglia Ruskin University	150,865
Aston University	34,813
Bath Spa University	155,009
University of Bedfordshire	50,742
Birkbeck College	205,137
University of Birmingham	698,531
Birmingham City University	158,161
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln	494,810
University of Bolton	30,699
University of Bradford	302,600
University of Brighton	228,506
University of Bristol	1,135,401
Brunel University	320,565
Buckinghamshire New University	35,436
University of Cambridge	4,270,947
Institute of Cancer Research	21,394
Canterbury Christ Church University	48,165
University of Central Lancashire	627,542
Central School of Speech and Drama	41,238
University of Chester	283,340
University of Chichester	313,917
City University, London	345,319
University of Cumbria	285,380
De Montfort University	1,107,332
University of Derby	63,258
University of Durham	707,072
University of East London	274,773
Institute of Education	96,734
University of Essex	18,304
University College Falmouth	136,563
University of Gloucestershire	230,874
Goldsmiths College, University of London	452,165
University of Greenwich	346,048
Harper Adams University College	87,533
University of Huddersfield	248,311
University of Hull	112,822
Imperial College London	899,310
Keele University	69,472
University of Kent	36,704
King's College London	2,213,335
University of Leeds	1,316,567
Leeds Metropolitan University	557,416
University of Leicester	361,144
University of Lincoln	25,854
University of Liverpool	1,315,922
Liverpool John Moores University	709,723
University of the Arts London	694,911
University of London	48,190
London Business School	10,862
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	11,385
London Metropolitan University	138,028
London South Bank University	205,797
University of Manchester	2,025,504
Manchester Metropolitan University	608,002
Middlesex University	85,990
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	1,362,103
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	248,850
Norwich University College of the Arts	163,440
University of Nottingham	294,067
Nottingham Trent University	394,729
Open University	67,222
School of Oriental and African Studies	43,494
University of Oxford	5,214,488
University of Plymouth	290,031
University of Portsmouth	471,721
Queen Mary, University of London	463,809
University of Reading	108,018
Roehampton University	188,817
Rose Bruford College	60,300
Royal Academy of Music	69,331
Royal Agricultural College	148,120

	£
Royal College of Art	40,199
Royal College of Music	117,208
Royal Holloway, University of London	317,989
Royal Veterinary College	86,848
St. Mary's University College	26,757
University of Salford	338,176
University of Sheffield	843,098
Sheffield Hallam University	325,445
University of Southampton	168,997
Southampton Solent University	14,106
University of Sunderland	159,216
University of Surrey	14,085
University of Teesside	134,593
Thames Valley University	5,531
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	94,026
University College London	1,528,978
University of Warwick	9,224
University of the West of England, Bristol	184,194
University of Westminster	197,284
University of Winchester	113,695
University of Wolverhampton	58,151
Writtle College	40,291
University of York	380,918
York St. John University	415,591

Higher Education: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students *(a)* commenced and *(b)* completed HNC/HND qualification courses in each year since 2000; [300783]

(2) how many students *(a)* commenced and *(b)* completed a foundation degree course in each year since 2000. [300820]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in tables 1 and 2. Figures for 2008/09 will be available in January 2010.

Table 1 shows the number of students who commenced HNC, HND and foundation degrees in each year since 2000. The figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their entrants' data.

Table 2 shows the number of students who qualified at HNC, HND and foundation degrees in each year since 2000. These figures do include the Open University as qualifier data are consistent with other institutions.

Foundation degrees did not commence until the 2001/02 academic year, therefore figures for 2000/01 are not available.

Figures in tables 1 and 2 cover students studying at higher education institutions only and do not include students registered for HND, HNC and foundation degree courses at further education colleges.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England produces a regular report on Foundation degrees, which covers entrants to both English HEIs and English Further education colleges

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_16/

However, figures in their report do not cover qualifiers. To demonstrate the volume of students studying at FECs, table 4 of the HEFCE report shows that approximately one quarter of entrants to foundation degrees in 2005/06 were registered at English FECs.

Table 1: HND, HNC and foundation degree entrants[1]. UK higher education institutions[2]. Academic years 2000/01 to 2007/08

Academic year	*HND*	*HNC*	*Foundation degree*
2000/01	25,905	11,155	n/a
2001/02	25,830	13,050	3,135
2002/03	21,380	10,900	8,250
2003/04	17,285	9,870	12,955
2004/05	14,250	9,265	17,290
2005/06	11,725	8,600	22,175
2006/07	9,545	8,580	26,455
2007/08	8,600	8,810	32,580

n/a = Not available. Foundation degrees did not commence until the 2001/02 academic year.

[1] Covers entrants from all domiciles, to both full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: HND, HNC and foundation degree qualifiers[1]. UK higher education institutions. Academic years 2000/01 to 2007/08

Academic year	*HND*	*HNC*	*Foundation degree*
2000/01	14,010	5,510	n/a
2001/02	14,110	6,315	150
2002/03	13,770	6,205	1,110
2003/04	11,235	6,215	3,135
2004/05	9,665	5,930	6,175
2005/06	7,765	5,380	9,275
2006/07	6,435	4,780	11,635
2007/08	5,830	5,040	14,975

n/a = Not available. Foundation degrees did not commence until the 2001/02 academic year.

[1] Covers qualifiers from all domiciles, from both full-time and part-time courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Insolvency

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater transparency in the insolvency sector. [300682]

Ian Lucas: I consider that the steps already taken by The Insolvency Service address this issue. In June this year The Insolvency Service published the first Review of Insolvency Practitioner Regulation, which the service intends to publish annually. The review sets out the essential features of the regulatory regime that governs insolvency practitioners; what the public and businesses can expect from it and what the service and the other regulators are doing to improve it.

In July the service also published a review of the operation of Statement of Insolvency Practice 16 (SIP 16) on pre-packaged sales in administrations. SIP 16 is intended to ensure that creditors are given sufficient information to understand the circumstances surrounding the decision to sell the company's assets and the reasons why the particular course of action was adopted by the practitioner.

I also welcome the announcement by the Office of Fair Trading made on 12 November 2009 that it was to carry out a study into the corporate insolvency market.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how long on average it took for an insolvency case to be settled in the latest period for which figures are available. [300788]

Ian Lucas: Following the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002, an administration has a statutory time limit of 12 months, although this may be extended with the permission of the court or by the agreement of creditors. Research funded by the Insolvency Service suggests that the average duration of an administration is around one year. That same research suggests that the average duration of an administrative receivership is around 18 months.

Liquidations do not have a statutory time limit, but research conducted by the Insolvency Service suggests that the average length of a liquidation is around two to two and a half years.

The Enterprise Act 2002 also introduced a statutory 12-month time limit for bankruptcy, and provides for even earlier discharge in some cases.

The World Bank "Doing Business Report 2009" ranks the UK joint out of 155 countries for the speed with which it deals with troubled businesses.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to review the regulation of the Insolvency Service. [300681]

Ian Lucas: At present operation of The Insolvency Service is regulated through the requirement to produce, and lay in Parliament, an annual corporate plan, as well as annual fees orders, which sets the fees charged by official receivers for the work they carry out in dealing with bankruptcy and insolvency case administration. For The Services' work in company investigation and enforcement, and redundancy payments, funding is set through allocations made from BIS and HMRC respectively and the level of this allocation is made in response to submissions from The Service to each Department, as part of their wider budget setting.

For all areas of The Service, The Corporate Plan sets out its vision for delivering services for the next three years, with particular emphasis on its plans and targets for the coming year. The Plan is reviewed by BIS to ensure that its goals are realistic and that targets are achievable within the resources available, and yet are set at a level to stretch the organisation and not allow complacency. Performance against the targets and budgets thus set is reported to the Minister on a quarterly basis.

There are no plans to make substantive changes to this reporting process.

Insolvency: Fees and Charges

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulation his Department undertakes of the level of fees charged by insolvency practitioners. [300678]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service does not regulate the level of fees charged by insolvency practitioners.

Insolvency legislation sets out how the remuneration of an office holder (liquidator/administrator/trustee etc.) is to be fixed and provides that such remuneration shall be fixed by reference to the time properly given to the case, or as a percentage of the assets which are realised and distributed. In most insolvency cases it is for the liquidation or creditors' committee to determine the basis for fixing the remuneration or, in the absence of such a committee, the creditors decide the matter.

Although the court can review fees charged by insolvency practitioners the proposed amendments to the insolvency rules, which are due to come into force in April next year, include provisions that will enable creditors to obtain further information and thereby make it easier for greater scrutiny of office-holders' remuneration and expenses. The amendments also make it clearer how to challenge such remuneration and expenses.

As the amount of remuneration is subject to review by the court, my noble Friend the Secretary of State has no powers to regulate the amount of remuneration charged. I welcome the announcement by the Office of Fair Trading made on 12 November 2009 that it is to undertake a market study into the corporate insolvency market.

Insolvency: Licensing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many licensed insolvency practitioners there are. [300790]

Ian Lucas: There were 1,738 licensed insolvency practitioners as at 1 January, which is the most recent figure available.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many insolvency practitioners have had their licences withdrawn in each of the last 10 years. [300791]

Ian Lucas: The number of insolvency practitioners that have had their licences withdrawn in each of the last 10 years is set out in tabular form as follows:

	Number of licences withdrawn
1999	3
2000	3
2001	1
2002	1
2003	3
2004	5
2005	4
2006	2
2007	1
2008	3

Limited Liability Partnerships: Company Accounts

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons limited liability partnerships do not have access to the webfiling service provided by Companies House. [300752]

Ian Lucas: Companies House has developed a WebFiling service which caters for a core range of high volume filing transactions. Over time it plans to expand this service to cover 100 per cent. of the information filed, not only by limited companies but also by limited liability partnerships (LLPs).

Over the last four years Companies House's IT resources have been concentrated on delivering two complex and mission-critical projects: to replace an aging mainframe database and to implement the Companies Act 2006.

The new Act came fully into effect in October and Companies House is now developing further enhancements to its services, including e-filing options for LLPs. These are timetabled for implementation in spring 2010.

Postcodes

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of making the Royal Mail postcode database freely accessible for *(a)* not-for-profit and *(b)* profitable use. [300279]

Mr. McFadden: The Postcode Address File (PAF) dataset was designed and engineered by Royal Mail and is owned and managed by the company as a commercial asset of the business. Under Section 116 of the Postal Services Act 2000, Royal Mail must maintain the PAF and make it available to any person who wishes to use it on such terms as are reasonable. This requirement is replicated as a condition of Royal Mail's licence issued and monitored by the postal regulator, Postcomm. Provision exists for Royal Mail to recover a reasonable charge for the supply of PAF and it must not impose any term or condition other than reasonable restrictions to safeguard its intellectual property rights (IPR) and to ensure that the PAF and its updates are used to support effective addressing.

Postcomm carried out a consultation on the PAF in 2006, which took all the diverse uses of the PAF into account before reaching its decision in 2007, announcing more safeguards for the management of the address information held in the PAF with the aim of making sure that the PAF is maintained properly and made available on fair and reasonable terms. The findings of the consultation can be found on Postcomm's website:

www.psc.gov.uk

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether energy companies may count interest free loans which they provide for the greening of community buildings against their carbon emission reduction targets. [301074]

Joan Ruddock: No. CERT is an obligation on electricity on household gas and electricity suppliers to promote CO_2 reductions in the GB household sector only.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department plans to spend on steps to achieve the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and what estimate he has made of the (i) proportion of such expenditure to be incurred in England, (ii) the carbon savings to be achieved, (iii) the number of properties affected and (iv) the number of jobs created from such expenditure in each year. [300478]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is a GB-wide obligation on electricity and gas suppliers with more than 50,000 customers to achieve 185mt CO_2 savings in the domestic sector. It runs from April 2008 to March 2011. The costs of the scheme fall to energy suppliers. The Government estimate that the cost to suppliers of meeting the obligation over the three years is £3.2 billion.

Energy suppliers contract with third party installers, primarily insulators, to source and supply these measures on their behalf. By March 2009 suppliers had achieved 55.3mt CO_2 savings, reaching over one million households with insulation measures alone. CERT supports the full spectrum of energy efficiency measures and independent estimates from November 2008 (Element Energy: An Assessment of the size of the UK household energy efficiency market) showed that there are 50,000 people directly involved in the domestic energy efficiency products and services market (with a much larger number c.900,000 in supporting areas).

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department he expects to (i) attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and (ii) travel to that conference by air; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such travel. [300415]

Joan Ruddock: The UK delegation to the UNFCCC conference in Copenhagen has not yet been finalised, however, the current list identifies two Ministers and 36 officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

At present 19 delegates have confirmed their intention to travel to the conference by air. This is necessary as the rail options are limited, and inflexible. As delegates will be working around the clock many individuals have fixed appointments that set fixed boundaries to their possible travel times. Not all delegates have made their travel arrangements as of yet. DECC has estimated up to £17,500 for the total cost of travel for all UK delegates attending the conference. The cumulative cost so far is well below this figure.

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the biomass to be deployed in his Department's renewable energy strategy will be compliant with the Searchinger factor. [300405]

Joan Ruddock: The biofuels and bioliquids used to deliver the UK's 15 per cent. renewable energy target by 2020 will be required to meet the sustainability criteria set under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). These criteria include consideration of direct land use change but not indirect land use change.

However, the Directive places a requirement on the European Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, by 31 December 2010, reviewing the impact of indirect land use change on greenhouse gas emissions and addressing ways to minimise that impact.

In addition, the European Commission is due to report on requirements for a sustainability scheme for energy uses of biomass, other than biofuels and bioliquids, by 31 December 2009.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons Question *(a)* 245083 and *(b)* 245084 on the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, tabled on 15 December 2008, were not answered in the last session; what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all Questions tabled by hon. Members for ordinary written answer are answered within a working week; and if he will make a statement. [300325]

Joan Ruddock: Prior to DECC setting up its own Parliamentary Unit at the end of January 2009, parliamentary questions were answered by either BIS (previously BERR) and DEFRA's Parliamentary Units. The questions referred to were the responsibility of DEFRA's Parliamentary Unit. According to their records they have no record of having received these questions.

The Department's target is to answer 70 per cent. of Written Questions within five working days. The Department monitors its performance against this target and keeps its procedures under review.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

UK School Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have competed in the UK School Games in each year in which they have been staged; and what the cost of staging those games was in each such year. [300217]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The UK School Games is a multi-sport competition organised by the Youth Sport Trust for school-aged children and acts at the pinnacle of a wider competition pathway. The Youth Sport Trust has advised that the total cost and numbers of competitors in each UK School Games since its conception, is as follows:

Glasgow 2006

1,100 competitors across five sports at the four-day event

Total year round cost of UK School Games: £2.036 million

Coventry 2007

1,350 competitors across eight sports

Total year round cost of UK School Games: £2.89 million

Bristol and Bath 2008

1,470 competitors across nine sports

Total year round cost of UK School Games: £3.26 million

South Wales 2009

1,523 competitors across 10 sports

Total year round cost of UK School Games: £3.30 million (estimated final cost).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in salary and wage costs for police forces in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of that paid to police officers and civilian police force staff who earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300848]

Mr. Hanson: Approximately £10,901,841,000[1] was paid in salary and wage costs for police forces in England and Wales in 2008-09.

Information on the proportion paid to police officers and staff who earn more than £50,000 per annum is not available.

[1] Figures taken from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) are 2008-09 provisional actuals.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from her Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [300419]

Ms Butler: It is not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system the amount and cost of domestic air travel by Cabinet Office officials in 2008-09. This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each category was in each of the last four quarters. [300916]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she plans to reply to that part of the letter of 8 October 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North which was transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions, concerning a constituent and the Civil Service Pension Scheme. [300618]

Tessa Jowell: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 19 November.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of young people aged between *(a)* 16 and 17 and *(b)* 18 and 24 years were unemployed in each (i) year since 1987 and (ii) of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the number of students looking for part-time or vacation work included in those figures. [300824]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

JUSTICE

Driving under Influence: Convictions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in each police authority area in each year since 1999 had previous convictions for the same offence. [301034]

Claire Ward: The information requested is shown in the following tables. However, figures for 1999 are not available.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs[1] in England and Wales (2000-08) with a previous conviction for the same offence

	2000			2001			2002		
	No of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/ drugs	*No of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*No of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/ drugs*	*No of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*No of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/ drugs*	*No of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*
Avon and Somerset	2,389	434	18.17	2,167	472	21.78	2,336	506	21.66
Bedfordshire	762	159	20.87	883	181	20.50	932	220	23.61
Cambridgeshire	766	117	15.27	822	148	18.00	871	167	19.17
Cheshire	1,554	246	15.83	1,610	253	15.71	1,893	376	19.86
City of London	179	19	10.61	165	23	13.94	226	35	15.49
Cleveland	742	99	1334	821	129	15.71	867	181	20.88
Cumbria	768	102	13.28	747	131	17.54	740	136	18.38
Derbyshire	1,351	188	13.92	1,341	231	17.23	1,399	276	19.73
Devon and Cornwall	2,162	308	14.25	2,351	393	16.72	2,436	489	20.07
Dorset	1,051	158	15.03	1,087	212	19.50	1,138	222	19.51
Durham	1,083	157	14.50	1,051	189	17.98	1,121	242	21.59
Dyfed-Powys	796	114	14.32	854	169	19.79	889	168	18.90
Essex	2,387	371	15.54	2,377	409	17.21	2,468	470	19.04
Gloucestershire	793	141	17.78	862	150	17.40	927	205	22.11
Greater Manchester	4,552	811	17.82	4,489	936	20.85	4,490	1,003	2234
Gwent	1,140	203	17.81	1,082	201	18.58	1,025	241	23.51
Hampshire	3,333	528	15.84	3,369	574	17.04	3,702	794	21.45
Hertfordshire	1,517	252	16.61	1,647	281	17.06	1,902	345	18.14
Humberside	1,292	193	14.94	1,339	229	17.10	1,381	258	18.68
Kent	2,568	391	15.23	2,708	507	18.72	2,856	529	18.52
Lancashire	2,475	399	16.12	2,232	407	18.23	2,532	545	21.52
Leicestershire	1,446	254	17.57	1,438	283	19.68	1,574	316	20.08
Lincolnshire	784	154	19.64	849	150	17.67	822	173	21.05
Merseyside	2,275	403	17.71	2,299	447	19.44	2,445	558	22.82
Metropolitan Police	10,896	1,549	14.22	10,634	1,862	17.51	12,109	2,307	19.05
Norfolk	1,074	154	14.34	1,118	183	16.37	1,230	214	17.40
North Wales	1,263	172	13.62	1,177	191	16.23	1,208	253	20.94
North Yorkshire	1,046	114	10.90	1,032	160	15.50	1,124	182	16.19
Northamptonshire	1,102	206	18.69	1,078	201	18.65	1,016	241	23.72

Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs[1] in England and Wales (2000-08) with a previous conviction for the same offence

	2000			2001			2002		
	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	*No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs*	*No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs*	*No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*
Northumbria	2,535	451	17.79	2,439	509	20.87	2,533	572	22.58
Nottinghamshire	1,635	262	16.02	1,504	314	20.88	1,346	302	22.44
South Wales	2,526	536	21.22	2,608	572	21.93	2,602	660	25.37
South Yorkshire	2,010	476	23.68	1,950	475	24.36	1,856	449	24.19
Staffordshire	1,568	219	13.97	1,528	246	16.10	1,639	317	19.34
Suffolk	863	112	12.98	916	145	15.83	1,080	203	18.80
Surrey	1,510	178	11.79	1,694	235	13.87	1,650	295	17.88
Sussex	2,062	313	15.18	2,279	332	14.57	2,252	423	18.78
Thames Valley	3,426	529	15.44	3,416	590	17.27	4,266	814	19.07
Warwickshire	753	103	13.68	851	112	13.16	820	143	17.44
West Mercia	1,603	221	13.79	1,667	272	16.32	1,698	314	18.49
West Midlands	4,337	860	19.83	4,730	1,011	21.37	4,793	1,148	23.95
West Yorkshire	3,232	542	16.77	3,150	605	19.21	3,463	691	19.95
Wiltshire	853	101	11.84	950	151	15.89	930	169	18.17
Grand total	82,499	13,299	16.12	83,311	15,271	18.33	88,583	18,152	20.49

	2003			2004			2005		
Force	*No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs*	*No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs*	*No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs*	*No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*
Avon and Somerset	2,571	629	24.47	2,582	628	24.32	2,555	614	24.03
Bedfordshire	1,058	261	24.67	1,051	233	22.17	1,033	250	24.20
Cambridgeshire	957	213	22.26	1,113	221	19.86	1,295	272	21.00
Cheshire	1,807	358	19.81	2,065	404	19.56	1,687	371	21.99
City of London	238	31	13.03	174	33	18.97	208	42	20.19
Cleveland	913	194	21.25	1,028	221	21.50	933	210	22.51
Cumbria	824	137	16.63	873	180	20.62	830	154	18.55
Derbyshire	1,558	332	21.31	1,822	362	19.87	1,614	332	20.57
Devon and Cornwall	2,670	558	20.90	2,533	538	21.24	2,455	499	20.33
Dorset	1,235	276	22.35	1,219	278	22.81	1,213	284	23.41
Durham	1,128	253	22.43	1,248	311	24.92	1,118	247	22.09
Dyfed-Powys	931	194	20.84	944	196	20.76	930	212	22.80
Essex	2,567	582	22.67	2,733	626	22.91	2,523	609	24.14
Gloucestershire	897	177	19.73	939	221	23.54	816	183	22.43
Greater Manchester	4,567	1,079	23.63	4,730	1,182	24.99	4,528	1,156	25.53
Gwent	1,078	253	23.47	1,109	266	23.99	1,030	263	25.53
Hampshire	3,712	813	21.90	3,627	878	24.21	3,367	762	22.63
Hertfordshire	1,855	388	20.92	1,830	386	21.09	1,837	419	22.81
Humberside	1,496	327	21.86	1,558	329	21.12	1,553	356	22.92
Kent	2,930	634	21.64	2,871	640	22.29	2,776	639	23.02
Lancashire	2,554	560	21.93	2,609	576	22.08	2,636	636	24.13
Leicestershire	1,622	386	23.80	1,593	368	23.10	1,507	354	23.49
Lincolnshire	1,087	235	21.62	1,169	253	21.64	1,162	224	19.28
Merseyside	2,633	586	22.26	2,651	647	24.41	2,763	695	25.15
Metropolitan Police	12,084	2,510	20.77	12,822	2,849	22.22	12,414	2,685	21.63
Norfolk	1,237	270	21.83	1,215	248	20.41	1,235	270	21.86
North Wales	1,304	265	20.32	1,319	302	22.90	1,341	275	20.51
North Yorkshire	1,205	231	19.17	1,164	196	16.84	1,260	238	18.89
Northamptonshire	996	242	24.30	938	234	24.95	861	192	22.30
Northumbria	2,678	662	24.72	2,576	598	23.21	2,498	603	24.14
Nottinghamshire	1,582	399	25.22	1,600	387	24.19	1,653	416	25.17
South Wales	2,751	740	26.90	2,703	732	27.08	2,783	705	25.33
South Yorkshire	2,021	442	21.87	2,125	536	25.22	2,147	515	23.99

	2003			2004			2005		
Force	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence
Staffordshire	1,676	334	19.93	1,755	383	21.82	1,703	368	21.61
Suffolk	1,153	228	19.77	1,243	245	19.71	1,053	240	22.79
Surrey	1,456	279	19.14	1,506	298	19.79	1,534	330	21.51
Sussex	2,375	483	20.34	2,446	519	21.22	2,329	514	22.07
Thames Valley	4,015	802	19.98	3,609	808	22.39	3,417	775	22.68
Warwickshire	885	159	17.97	826	173	20.94	844	183	21.68
West Mercia	1,701	332	19.52	1,778	392	22.05	1,896	408	21.52
West Midlands	5,022	1,315	26.18	5,375	1,460	27.16	5,485	1,472	26.84
West Yorkshire	3,645	828	22.72	3,821	899	23.53	3,794	901	23.75
Wiltshire	935	163	17.43	939	194	20.66	955	195	20.42
Grand total	91,705	20,140	21.96	93,631	21,436	22.89	91,591	21,073	23.01

	2006			2007			2008		
Force	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence
Avon and Somerset	2,455	599	24.40	2,417	592	24.49	2,198	571	25.98
Bedfordshire	1,090	264	24.22	1,023	271	26.49	879	233	26.51
Cambridgeshire	1,286	272	21.15	1,231	274	22.26	1,064	259	24.34
Cheshire	1,900	430	22.63	1,884	443	23.51	1,636	368	22.50
City of London	181	25	13.81	195	38	19.49	145	27	18.62
Cleveland	1,007	204	20.26	905	228	25.19	980	236	24.08
Cumbria	838	153	18.26	845	163	19.29	739	162	21.92
Derbyshire	1,503	326	21.69	1,437	335	23.31	1,297	294	22.67
Devon and Cornwall	2,518	535	21.25	2,475	567	22.91	2,240	539	24.06
Dorset	1,228	274	22.31	1,205	293	24.32	1,048	240	22.90
Durham	955	243	25.45	1,004	259	25.80	929	233	25.08
Dyfed-Powys	891	200	22.45	876	186	21.16	795	202	25.41
Essex	2,663	615	23.09	2,523	591	23.42	2,302	563	24.46
Gloucestershire	831	197	23.71	826	204	24.70	797	182	22.84
Greater Manchester	4,328	1,049	24.24	4,297	1,083	25.20	3,861	924	23.93
Gwent	1,069	260	24.32	1,007	258	25.62	964	236	24.48
Hampshire	3,003	692	23.04	2,913	699	24.00	2,675	653	24.41
Hertfordshire	1,867	446	23.89	1,892	426	22.52	1,665	407	24.44
Humberside	1,596	350	21.93	1,410	353	25.04	1,360	296	21.76
Kent	2,769	661	23.87	2,842	637	22.41	2,496	623	24.96
Lancashire	2,703	636	23.53	2,664	593	22.26	2,441	571	23.39
Leicestershire	1,379	326	23.64	1,424	342	24.02	1,233	320	25.95
Lincolnshire	1,230	270	21.95	1,207	258	21.38	1,153	260	22.55
Merseyside	2,553	649	25.42	2,299	544	23.66	2,019	514	25.46
Metropolitan Police	12,578	2,720	21.63	11,850	2,686	22.67	11,263	2,721	24.16
Norfolk	1,310	299	22.82	1,209	299	24.73	1,061	257	24.22
North Wales	1,327	283	21.33	1,280	268	20.94	1,108	247	22.29
North Yorkshire	1,272	246	19.34	1,220	258	21.15	1,154	213	18.46
Northamptonshire	1,020	240	23.53	1,123	256	22.80	1,052	238	22.62
Northumbria	2,529	626	24.75	2,457	576	23.44	2,307	603	26.14
Nottinghamshire	1,650	402	24.37	1,617	363	22.45	1,495	355	23.75
South Wales	2,768	710	25.65	2,585	670	25.92	2,445	636	26.01
South Yorkshire	1,977	516	26.10	2,000	506	25.30	1,914	464	24.24
Staffordshire	1,666	350	21.01	1,729	396	22.90	1,671	366	21.90
Suffolk	1,098	245	22.31	1,000	203	20.30	884	220	24.89
Surrey	1,475	312	21.15	1,502	317	21.11	1,347	273	20.27
Sussex	2,473	531	21.47	2,454	612	24.94	2,138	494	23.11
Thames Valley	3,362	750	22.31	3,311	816	24.65	2,959	701	23.69

	2006			2007			2008		
Force	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	No. of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	No. of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence	% of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence
Warwickshire	[illegible]	163	20.76	[illegible]	223	21.29	821	206	25.09
West Mercia	1,921	407	21.19	1,929	446	23.03	1,688	410	24.29
West Midlands	5,440	1,457	26.78	5,301	1,471	27.75	4,574	1,338	29.25
West Yorkshire	3,568	811	22.73	3,276	866	26.43	2,951	782	26.50
Wiltshire	971	211	21.73	782	156	19.95	685	148	21.61
Grand total	91,128	20,975	23.02	88,515	21,049	23.78	80,497	19,605	24.35

[1] The data include a range of offences under the Road Traffic Act. They can be found in sections 4(1), 5(1)(a), 7(6), 4(2), 5(1)(b), 6(4) and 7A as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Transport and Works Act 2002.

Youth Custody

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged 18 years or under and resident in each local authority area were placed in a *(a)* young offender institution, *(b)* secure children's home and *(c)* secure training centre in each year since 1997. [301046]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) does not collect data by local authority area and the data provided are by Youth Offending Team (YOT) area. I have placed in the Libraries of the House a table that shows data on the number of times that under-18s have been placed in young offender institutions (YOIs), secure training centres (STCs) and secure children's homes (SCHs), since April 2001. Data prior to 2001 are not available in the format requested and cannot be provided without disproportionate costs. 18-year-olds are not placed in STCs or SCHs, and are placed in young adult (18-21) YOIs, separate from under-18s, and therefore data on 18-year-olds have not been included.

The data have been provided by the YJB and are drawn from administrative computer systems. As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 November 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House authorities have requested the return of the disc containing personal financial information of hon. Members from the Daily Telegraph. [300229]

Nick Harvey: In the absence of a police investigation the House authorities are not in a position to confirm whether or not there is such a disc, or who may have such a disc in their possession. I refer the hon. Member to Mr. Speaker's statement of 11 May 2009 referring to steps the House authorities have taken to remind publishers of the serious security implications if personal data that might expose Members and others to risks to their safety were to be published.

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will advise hon. Members on changing their bank details following the disclosure of hon. Members' personal financial information. [300238]

Nick Harvey: All Members were advised, by letter, on 13 May that they should consider taking action. I will send the hon. Member a copy of the letter.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections

Mrs. Laing: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has provided guidance to electoral registration officers in local authorities on the storage of electoral records. [300736]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it issues guidance to all electoral registration officers, which highlights the importance of ensuring that electoral records containing personal data are stored securely.

In particular the Commission's guidance recommends that electoral registration officers should seek guidance from the appointing authority's Data Protection Officer and IT department on appropriate procedures to mitigate risks to the security of electoral data.

The Commission further informs me that the Ministry of Justice has published guidance on common standards for the storage of electors' details on the electoral register.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301336]

Mr. Simon: Currently there are 50 (10.3 per cent.) out of a total of 481 staff working part-time in DCMS. However, all staff are actively encouraged to work alternative working patterns, including flexible working, compressed hours, and working from home. These are mainly arranged at local line management level and the Department does not hold comprehensive data centrally about the percentages of staff involved. The Department's policy is that all posts are considered suitable for part-time employees or job-share unless there is a clear business case outlining why this should not be the case.

The Royal Parks Agency currently has seven (7 per cent.) out of 100 staff working part-time. Application forms ask for applicants to state their preferred working patterns including whether they wish to be considered for a job share.

We do not hold information centrally about our non-departmental bodies.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300182]

Mr. Simon: The proportion of food procured by the Department during 2008-09 which was produced in the UK was as follows:

		Percentage
(a)	Lamb	100
(b)	Beef	100
(c)	Chicken	100
(d)	Pork	95
(e)	Turkey	100
(f)	Other meats	0
(g)	*Vegetables*	
	Ware potatoes—whole, unprepared	90
	Processed potatoes—whole, prepared	90
	Root vegetables and onions	90
	Brassicas	90
	Legumes	90
	Protected vegetables—e.g. tomatoes	80
	Other vegetables—e.g. asparagus	85
(h)	*Fruit*	
	Orchard fruit	75
	Soft fruit	70

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of legal (i) representation and (ii) advice sought by his Department and its agencies in each year since May 1997. [300334]

Mr. Simon: The overall legal costs incurred by the Department and its Agency, The Royal Parks, from 2005-06 to 2008-09 are set out in the table.

Information relating to prior years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Legal advise is provided by the Treasury Solicitor's Department and, where required, by counsel and private sector legal firms. The purpose of the advice is to support the whole range of the Department's activities, including policy making, the drafting of statutory instruments and the preparation of Bills.

Financial year	*Legal expenditure (£)*
2008-09	2,724,750
2007-08	2,873,160
2006-07	3,190,360
2005-06	2,454,740

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301184]

Mr. Simon: The cost of providing official cars for the use of Ministers in 2008-09 was £276,668. No departmental official was provided with an official car.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301195]

Mr. Bradshaw: I travelled by train to Nottingham on 20 November.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301547]

Mr. Simon: 95 per cent. (or 113 out of 119) of the recruitments that took place between November 2008 and November 2009 were advertised on the internet only. These were recruitments that were open to existing civil servants only. Posts open external to the civil service are often advertised in the press as well. As yet no provisions are in place to advertise internal Civil service recruitments in a non-electronic format, however, paper-only applications are accepted by the Department and information on current vacancies is available and readily given to any individual who contacts the Department inquiring about current opportunities.

Licensing

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department provides guidance on whether hon. Members and district councillors are included in the definition of 'interested parties' or 'responsible authorities' in section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003 and in the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005. [301073]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) and associated guidance issued by the Secretary of State and by my Department sets out the individuals or bodies that are interested parties and responsible authorities under the 2003 Act. Members of Parliament and district councillors are not responsible authorities under the 2003 Act and, currently, are interested parties only if they live, or operate a business, in the vicinity of the premises. In addition, if requested to do so, they can make representations on behalf of a resident or a business who themselves is an interested party under the 2003 Act.

In recognition of the important role that local authorities play in co-ordinating efforts to manage local alcohol related problems, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 includes a provision which, when in force, will make local councillors interested parties under the 2003 Act and therefore able to make representations on licence applications and seek licence reviews in their own right as councillors.

WALES

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301499]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has had no occurrence of whistleblowing.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301179]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300836]

Mr. Hain: None.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much funding is required for cadet instructors to resume training; [301439]

(2) what remuneration cadet instructors will receive in 2009-10; and from what budget such remuneration will be drawn. [301440]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We fully recognise the contribution that the cadets make to the long-term future of the Army and to society in general. But tough choices have to be made. Our focus is on Afghanistan and the cadets do not contribute directly to that main effort. We have therefore taken the very difficult decision to reduce the amount of money available to the Army Cadet Force for the remainder of the year. This means that instructors will receive no further payments for weekend Cadet training, although we will continue to meet enabling costs such as travel where we can. We will also continue to provide training courses at the Cadet Training Centre and at Brigade level for adult instructors, as it is essential that we maintain that core of skill and expertise. Instructors are not paid for evening training activity, so this is continuing as normal. The reduction in activity is saving a total of £4 million. By the end of 2009-10 Army cadet instructors will have received some £13 million from the Army budget.

We acknowledge the huge level of commitment and enthusiasm within the Army Cadet Force, and among the volunteer adult instructors in particular.

Armed Forces: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many deductions of earnings requests each of the armed forces received from the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the last three years for which figures are available; how many requests were *(a)* complied with and *(b)* not complied with by each service; and under what circumstances a service will not comply with a deduction of earnings request. [300694]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data are not held in a format which would identify a breakdown of the number of deductions from earnings requests. However, the total numbers received across the services since January 2007 to date are provided in the following table:

	Number
January to December 2007	3,577
January to December 2008	5,507
January 2009 to date	4,147

Deductions from earnings requests are complied with in all but exceptional circumstances. If an individual was not in receipt of pay, for example because they were absent without leave, this would prohibit compliance. In instances where a non-resident parent cannot be contacted because they are committed to operational duties, the CSA would be informed accordingly, and asked to resubmit the request in six months.

Under armed forces legislation, it is not always possible for the full amount of a deductions from earnings request to be taken from a serviceperson's salary. Under the Minimum Drawing Rate regulations, no individual can have more than 50 per cent. of their net pay deducted in respect of certain items, including deduction of earnings requests. Individuals will, nonetheless, remain liable for the amounts as ordered. Such arrears must either be cleared via private arrangements, or by continued monthly deductions from salary at the end of the period of liability.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of progress towards his Department's recruitment targets for the armed forces in the *(a)* short and *(b)* medium term; and how many personnel have been recruited into the armed forces from non-Commonwealth countries in each of the last three years. [300387]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Recruiting targets are determined annually based on current and forecast outflow rates and liability, and recruitment to all three services continues to improve. Targeted national, regional and local level recruiting campaigns coupled with the current economic climate are factors contributing to increased interest.

Shortages in some key trades remain a concern. This is being addressed through retention incentives, increased recruiting, and by restructuring the services to improve effectiveness.

Manning Balance is defined in the MOD's public service agreement as between -2 per cent. and +1 per cent. of the requirement. The Army has moved into Manning Balance and the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are both forecast to move into Manning Balance during 2010.

With the exception of the citizens of the Republic of Ireland and Nepalese citizens recruited into the Royal Gurkha Rifles we do not recruit outside of the Commonwealth.

Gurkha intake was fixed at 230 personnel over the previous three financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

The following table provides the number of other personnel recruited into the UK Regular Forces who register a non-Commonwealth nationality.

Non-Commonwealth

	Number
2006-07	40
2007-08	70
2008-09	60

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. Availability of data has been affected by the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Figures for 2006-07 exclude the RAF and Army figures for 2006-07 are for the 11-month period from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007.
3. All figures are provisional and subject to review due to ongoing validation of data from JPA.

Armed Forces: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effectiveness of pyrolysis waste disposal systems generating heat and electricity whilst troops are on operations; and how wet and dry waste is disposed of during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. [300501]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The use of pyrolysis waste disposal systems on operations to generate heat and electricity may not be viable, due to the low electrical power output such systems can generate and the difficulty in utilising heat energy in hot desert environments. MOD is however, committed to investigating this and is conducting a study into the quantity and type of waste produced in theatre, which will enable the Department to determine the best energy from waste solution.

Currently dry waste in theatre is sorted and plastics and metals are recycled by local companies. The rest is incinerated in theatre. MOD is in the process of supplying Membrane Biological Reactors in order to treat sewage and it is investigating the re-use of grey water from showers.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type were classified as *(a)* in service, *(b)* fit for purpose and *(c)* not in service on the latest date for which figures are available. [301595]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The numbers of armoured vehicles of each type classified as 'in service', 'fit for purpose' and 'out of service' are provided in the following table.

Significant quantities of Mastiff, Vector, Bulldog and Snatch are currently in the process of withdrawal to the UK following the cessation of operations in Iraq.

Vehicle	*In service*	*Fit for purpose*	*Out of service*
AS90	145	132	0
Challenger 2	345	261	40
CRARRV	81	70	0
CVR(T)	1,052	928	116
FV 430 (Mk2 and Bulldog)	1,110	658	290
Fuchs	11	11	0
Saxon	147	147	0
Titan	33	24	0
Trojan	33	25	0
Warrior	793	552	0
Mastiff	271	134	0
Panther	401	334	0
Ridgeback	118	73	0
Snatch 2 (including variants)	653	358	0
Vector	192	87	0
Viking	116	86	0

Defence Estates: Sales

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 702-3W, on Defence Estates: sales, how much of the total receipts accrued in 2007-08 have been allocated for the purposes of improving armed forces accommodation. [301481]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 222W to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison).

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300198]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements, with a view to disposing of surplus assets as quickly as possible. A list of the sites comprising the present and potential future programme is available in the Library of the House.

Details of all MOD holdings over £1 million, including sites in disposal, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Details of all property below £1 million in value could be provided only with disproportionate cost.

Receipts from individual sales depend on market conditions at the time of sale and other factors. Where pre-sale valuations have been obtained, then release ahead of the sale could, in any case, influence the market and they are thus regarded as commercially confidential.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much had been spent on the submarine dismantling project on the latest date for which figures are available. [301596]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Up to and including 31 March 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, spending on the Submarine Dismantling Project had been £3.15 million, excluding staff costs.

At this time the project was still known as the ISOLUS (Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines) project.

Territorial Army: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish the Territorial Army budget for financial year 2010-11. [300539]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The Army budget for 2010-11 will be published in the Defence Estimates in spring 2010 following approval in the House of Commons. However, this will not separately identify individual cost areas within the total budget; the ethos is of one Army—Regular and Territorial. The financial systems do not allow costs such as stock, ammunition and rations to be separately identified from those incurred by Regular units.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12-months. [301175]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of each grade work at each location on services which his Department has contracted out; what the *(a)* contractors and *(b)* services provided are in each case; what the length of each contract is; and what union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [301601]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has contracts with third party suppliers for a number of services which are carried out on DFID premises. Information on the name of contractors and the services provided is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Procurement/Contracts-let/

It is not possible to provide the number of staff broken down by civil service grades. Union recognition agreements are a matter between our suppliers and their employees.

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to each south and central American country in each year since 2006. [300353]

Mr. Michael Foster: Information on the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid to all developing countries is available in the publication Statistics on International Development, which is available in the Library or online at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-Performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

Details of funding in south and central America can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/sid%202009/Table%2014.2%20America.xls

Overseas Aid

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps have been taken to provide information for the public on the allocation of funds from the public purse to overseas aid projects. [300663]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has published summary information on each of its overseas aid projects via its website since August 2009. We are working on arrangements and a time table for publishing further details of our projects. In doing so, we need to balance our commitment to transparency with the need to protect sensitive information, and the cost and practicality of publishing information in a usable format.

In October 2009 DFID also published "Statistics on International Development" which contains summary data tables on the destination and purpose of all UK official expenditure on international development in each of the last five years. A copy is available in the Library as well as at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the time taken between the commitment and delivery of funds was in respect of each pledge made by his Department in each of the last five years. [301474]

Mr. Michael Foster: This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of sexual and gender-based violence against Tamil women in the camps of northern Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [301087]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is very difficult to verify reports or allegations of sexual and gender-based violence in the camps in Sri Lanka. This is because access for humanitarian agencies, particularly those who work on protection activities, has been extremely restricted. We continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to allow humanitarian agencies access to the camps to assess allegations of abuses such as sexual and gender-based violence.

The UK Government have consistently advocated for the treatment of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) held in camps in Sri Lanka to be in accordance with international standards.

The most effective way to ensure the safety of women displaced by the conflict is to restore freedom of movement to the IDP population so vulnerable people can be reunited with their families and communities.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from the Government Equalities Office will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300915]

Michael Jabez Foster: None.

Departmental Hotels

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what expenditure the Government Equalities Office incurred on hotel accommodation in 2008-09. [301389]

Michael Jabez Foster: In 2008-09 the Government Equalities Office spent £8,234 on hotel accommodation.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in the Government Equalities Office was in the last 12 months. [301392]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not provide Government cars to special advisers and therefore there has been no expenditure for this service.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the Government Equalities Office received bonus payments in 2008-09; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [300568]

Michael Jabez Foster: In 2008-09 the Government Equalities Office awarded 19 bonuses to its staff at a total cost of £28,400. The 19 staff represented 19 per cent. of the total work force. The highest individual bonus awarded was £10,500.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in the Government Equality Office at public expense in each of the last three years. [301368]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its creation on the 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has not funded any training sessions for its Ministers or special advisers.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of staff of the Government Equalities Office work flexibly or part-time; and what her Office's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301342]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) operates a flexible working policy which is available to all staff and this is offered on all job vacancies. We currently have six staff who work part-time and this equates to 5.5 per cent. of our work force.

TRANSPORT

A5: M1

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs *(a)* to date and *(b)* by the end of the 2009-10 financial year of preparing the A5-M1 link. [300620]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The total cost at the end of October 2009 of preparing the A5-M1 Link scheme is £11.8 million. The estimated total costs by the end of the 2009-10 financial year is £12.8 million.

Bus Services: South East

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related violent, anti-social behaviour on buses in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* the South East. [300274]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has not directly undertaken any specific initiatives in relation to Milton Keynes or to the South East.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment was in cash terms for senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last five years. [300509]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment in cash terms for senior civil servants in the Department for Transport in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

£

	Average non-consolidated performance related payment	*Highest non-consolidated performance related payment*
2009	6,359	12,500
2008	7,001	22,000
2007	5,749	20,000
2006	4,975	12,500
2005	3,565	17,000

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 632W, on departmental pay, when the next equal pay review for each bargaining unit will be held. [301151]

Chris Mole: The table shows when each of the Department for Transport's bargaining units will be carrying out its next equal pay review.

Bargaining unit	*Next equal pay review*
Department for Transport (Centre)	December 2009
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency	January 2010
Highways Agency	February 2010

Bargaining unit	*Next equal pay review*
Vehicle and Operating Services Agency	July 2011
Government Car and Dispatch Agency	April 2010
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	October 2012
Vehicle Certification Agency	July 2012
Driver Standards Agency	May 2012

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301200]

Mr. Khan: On Friday 20 November 2009.

Electric Vehicles: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of electric vehicles in Milton Keynes. [300544]

Mr. Khan: The Government have allocated over £400 million to deliver policies aiming to place the UK at the global forefront of ultra-low carbon vehicle development, demonstration, manufacture and use. These policies would all be applicable to encouraging the use of electric vehicles in Milton Keynes.

Some measures are available nationally, such as £230 million to provide consumer support worth in the region of £2,000 to £5,000 per car to be used between 2011 and 2014.

Other measures have a regional focus. For example on 19 November, the Government launched the Plugged-in Places infrastructure framework, providing up to £30 million to support the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in around three to six lead cities and regions across the UK. The aim of this scheme is for consortia to come forward with plans for roll outs of the electric vehicle infrastructure in their region.

Helicopters: Accidents

Miss Begg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the draft Air Accident Investigation Branch report on the Etap field helicopter incident will be with the statutory recipients; and when he expects to publish the final version. [301114]

Paul Clark: The accident occurred on 18 February 2009 and is the subject of an inspector's investigation. The Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations 1996 state that a report on an investigation should be made public in the shortest time possible (and if possible, within 12 months of the date of the accident or serious incident).

The subject investigation is complex in nature and requires significant consultation with Eurocopter, the helicopter manufacturer. This has introduced some delays to the investigation process. While it is difficult to predict the future time scale for concluding the outstanding technical issues it is hoped that the draft report will be ready for distribution to the statutory recipients by March 2010. Publication of the final report typically occurs three months after representations have been received and considered but it dependent on the issues raised by those consulted.

Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1103W, on the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation: finance, how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* pilots, *(b)* design studies, *(c)* development, *(d)* consultants and *(e)* equipment relating to the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation in each of the last 10 years. [301472]

Mr. Khan: The table sets out payments made directly to ITSO Ltd. (and its predecessor, the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation) in the last 10 years, broken down into development and consultancy. Please note the membership fees are included in the development figures.

No funding for pilot schemes has been paid directly to ITSO Ltd. However, the Department for Transport has made payments to public authorities to support pilots and in some cases the transition of legacy schemes to ITSO compliance.

The Department has not fund design studies for ITSO.

The Department has not directly funded equipment purchase for ITSO Ltd. However, some public authority schemes will have used DFT funding to purchase equipment for their schemes, for example smartcard readers.

£

	Development	*Consultants*	*Total spend exc. VAT*
1999-2000	104,000	0	104,000
2000-01	25,000	0	25,000
2001-02	20,000	0	20,000
2002-03	1,058,000	46,647	1,104,647
2003-04	2,690,180	47,704	2,732,884
2004-05	311,275	34,481	345,756
2005-06	485,256	44,691	529,947
2006-07	223,176	4,982	228,158
2007-08	760,700	9,184	769,884
2008-09	130,000	650	130,650

M6: Walsall

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether the chief executive of the Highways Agency plans to visit residents of the parts of Walsall borough affected by works on the M6 when he visits the sites in the borough where work is being undertaken; [300244]

(2) with reference to the letter of 13 November 2009, from the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency to the hon. Member for Walsall North, on what date the Chief Executive plans to visit Walsall to inspect the work being undertaken on the M6. [300683]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The chief executive of the Highways Agency has agreed to visit the site of the Managed Motorways work on the M6. I have asked the chief executive to notify my hon. Friend when details are finalised.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to oppose any proposals from the European Commission which would require existing vehicles to use daytime running lights. [300575]

Paul Clark: We have argued successfully against mandatory European rules on the use of dipped headlamps during daylight hours by existing vehicles (except when required by conditions, eg fog) and are not aware of any new proposals along these lines.

Special, dedicated, low-wattage daytime running lamps will be required by early 2011 for all new types of passenger car/light van and by summer 2012 for all other new types. We are not aware of any proposal to retro-fit such lamps to existing vehicles.

Public Transport: South East

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the level of violence and abusive behaviour on public transport in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* the South East. [300275]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport (DFT) does not routinely assess regional public transport crime or antisocial behaviour data.

The British Transport police collect crime data for crime committed at rail stations and on trains, as well as London Underground, Docklands Light Railway, Glasgow Subway, Croydon Tramlink and the Midland Metro tram system.

Crime committed at bus stations and on buses may be collected by the bus operator, local authority, Passenger Transport Executive and/or local police. These data are not collated or assessed at a national level by DFT.

Railway Network: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what account his Department takes of local authorities' growth point status when determining the level of funding for new railway infrastructure. [30[illegible]7]

Chris Mole: Local authorities are best placed to determine the transport requirements arising from any growth point in their area. They can fund railway infrastructure through the Community Infrastructure Fund and prioritising the use of Regional Funding Allocation for investment in such an area. The Department for Transport also takes account of population and employment growth when determining future capacity requirements of the railway funded through the High Level Output Specification.

Railways: Closures

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on the *(a)* promotion and *(b)* facilitation by his Department of the reopening of closed railway (i) lines and (ii) stations. [301246]

Chris Mole: It is for local authorities and regions to determine whether or not a re-opened railway or a new station is the best way to meet local or regional transport needs. They can fund a scheme from the regional funding allocation if it is a priority and demonstrates value for money. The Department for Transport is prepared to work with promoters of new lines, services and stations to help and advise them on how their objectives can be achieved and to facilitate their implementation through changes to franchises.

Where investment requires the provision of new or enhanced services, the policy is that a subsidy required should be funded by the promoter for at least the first three years. Following that period, if the service is successful and demonstrates value for money, subject to funds being made available, the Government would consider funding it thereafter as part of the national rail network.

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* consultancy fees and *(b)* other aspects of the Intercity Express programme to date. [301245]

Chris Mole: From 2005 to October 2009, the Department for Transport has spent £[illegible]1 million on the Intercity Express Programme. This resource has included financial, procurement, programme management, technical, legal, industry, business case and other specialist advice required to ensure the successful delivery of a project of the scale of the Intercity Express Programme. This figure should be considered in the context of the Intercity Express Programme contract value of £7.5 billion.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of the 1,300 extra carriages referred to in the Government's Rail White Paper of July 2007 have been ordered; and on which lines they will be operating. [300346]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* As I set out in my answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 895-96W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Heywood and Middleton (Jim Dobbin), so far there have been 543 new rail carriages ordered by the following train operators:

TOC	*Class*	*Type*	*Number of vehicles*
Southern	377	EMU—DV	48
London Midland	350/2	EMU	148
London Midland	172	DMU	69
Chiltern	172	DMU	8
Southern	377	EMU—DV	44
Virgin West Coast	390	EMU	106
NXEA	379	EMU	120

On 23 July, the Government announced a major new electrification programme which radically affects the requirements for train rolling stock over the next decade. In particular, there will be far less need for diesel trains and a greater requirement for electric trains. The Department for Transport will publish a new rolling stock plan in the autumn, setting out a revised strategy.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to issue the rolling stock statement which the Secretary of State indicated in July would be published in the autumn of this year; and whether this statement will cover both the Intercity Express programme and the 1,300 extra carriages referred to in the Government's Rail White Paper of July 2007. [300348]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: As set out in my answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 12-13W, on 23 July the Government announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea, and the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows. This electrification programme radically affects the requirements for rolling stock over the next decade. We will publish an updated rolling stock plan, taking account of these changes and setting out a revised strategy in the autumn.

This will happen in due course and will set out the Government's strategy in relation to rolling stock provision.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 12W, on rolling stock: procurement, by what date he expects to publish the updated rolling stock plan. [301048]

Chris Mole: As set out in my answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 12-13W, on 23 July the Government announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea, and the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows. This electrification programme radically affects the requirements for rolling stock over the next decade. We will publish an updated rolling stock plan, taking account of these changes and setting out a revised strategy in the autumn.

This will happen in due course.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 639W, on Thameslink: Rolling Stock, when he expects to *(a)* announce the preferred bidder and *(b)* place the final order for the Thameslink rolling stock programme. [300312]

Chris Mole: The identification of a preferred bidder prior to final award will depend on the progress of the evaluation and negotiations with the remaining bidders. As set in out in my answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 639W, the Department for Transport is currently planning to award the order around autumn 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on its National Consultancy Unit since the establishment of that unit. [300450]

John Healey: Since the National Consultancy Unit's establishment in 1 April 2004, staff costs (salaries) are estimated as £10,062,940.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on providing *(a)* signage and *(b)* security for the site at (i) St Clements Hospital, London and (ii) Castle College Northside, Sheffied; [300451]

(2) how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent in acquiring *(a)* St. Clement's Hospital, London and *(b)* Castle College Northside, Sheffield; and if he will make a statement. [300608]

John Healey: St Clements Hospital, London was purchased for £7 million on 11 June 2008. Since purchasing St. Clement's Hospital, the Homes and Communities Agency has spent:

£255,323 on security up to and including 31 October 2009; and

£504 on safety and warning signage.

Castle College Northside, Sheffield was purchased for £5 million on 16 July 2008.

The Homes and Communities Agency has not spent anything on signage or security on Castle College as the college are occupying the site until 2010.

Rent to HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to make a decision on the future of the pilot Rent to HomeBuy scheme. [300456]

John Healey: Rent to HomeBuy is proving successful in supporting first time buyers and providers of affordable housing, and will continue for the remainder of the 2008-11 National Affordable Housing Programme.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300879]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not fund staff Christmas parties and in respect of any other functions this question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by Communities has gone up from 59 per cent. in 2006-07 to 65 per cent. in 2007-08. We expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(d)* the Tenant Services Authority expects to spend on Christmas parties in 2009. [300448]

Barbara Follett: In relation to Christmas parties, the Department has interpreted this to mean internal, departmental Christmas parties. On this basis, the *(a)* Department can confirm that no official funds are planned to be spent on Christmas parties in 2009.

The Homes and Communities Agency *(b)*, the Homes and Communities Agency Academy *(c)* and the Tenant Services Authority *(d)* can also confirm that there are no plans to spend official funds on Christmas parties.

Climate Change: Conferences

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300887]

John Healey: None.

Departmental Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* drinks receptions, *(b)* seminars and *(c)* conferences have been hosted by (i) his Department, (ii) the Tenants Services Authority, (iii) the Homes and Communities Agency and (iv) the Homes and Communities Agency Academy in each of the last 12 months. [300444]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information in respect of the Tenant Services Agency, the Homes and Communities Agency and the Homes and Communities Agency Academy has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300643]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not paid any *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors in the last three years.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300644]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301563]

Barbara Follett: There have been no allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing made to the Department for Communities and Local Government since 6 June 2006.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301181]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1642W, to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening).

Figures could be broken down by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Visits

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301192]

Barbara Follett: Friday, 20 November 2009.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what weight of paper his Department has recycled in each of the last five years. [300774]

Barbara Follett: The weight of paper recycled by the Department for Communities and Local Government in the last five years is as follows:

	Paper recycling[1] (tonnes)
2004-05	Not known
2005-06	132
2006-07	127
2007-08	263
2008-09	254

[1] The data includes cardboard as this is often mixed with paper for recycling.

Departmental Travel

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300813]

Barbara Follett: The Department has spent the following amounts through formal and informal contracts with taxi companies over the last three fiscal years.

		£
2006	A1 Taxi Safe	1,333
	Balmoral Transport Services Ltd.	8,516
	Dial a Cab	15,700
	Radio Taxis	5,997
	Taxifast	1,210
Total		32,757
2007	A1 Taxi Safe	833
	Balmoral Transport Services Ltd.	2,755
	Dial a Cab	4,885
	Knight and Day Taxis Com	156
	Radio Taxis	2,730
	Taxifast	202
Total		11,560
2008	A1 Taxi Safe	144
	Balmoral Transport Services Ltd.	8,417
	Crownhill Taxi Services Ltd.	490
	Dial a Cab	2,793
	Radio Taxis	59
Total		11,903

Staff will also pay taxi fares themselves in the course of official business and claim the costs back through the T&S system, figures from this show the following expenditure over the last three years:

	£
2006-07	121,588
2007-08	111,056
2008-09	55,736

Food: Procurement

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300188]

Barbara Follett: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by Communities has gone up from 59 per cent. in 2006-07 to 65 per cent. in 2007-08. We expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* shareholdings and *(b)* subsidiaries the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) owns; what the purpose of ownership of each stake is; what the HCA's shareholding represents as a percentage of the overall shares; and what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of each stake. [300441]

John Healey: A list of the Homes and Communities Agency's associates and subsidiaries and its proportionate shareholding is disclosed in its Financial Statements for 2008-09, as laid in the House (pages 81 and 82).

The main reasons for holding these investments is to further the business of the agency in pursuit of its strategic objectives.

The carrying values of the agency's investments in the Financial Statements are assessed each year. This assessment is scrutinised by the National Audit Office as part of their annual audit work.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor spent on *(a)* Places of Change, *(b)* the Thames Gateway and *(c)* growth funding in each of the last three years. [300442]

John Healey: Information on spending on Places of Change, the Thames Gateway and growth was published in the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2008-09, and in the financial statements of its predecessor bodies: the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and the Department for Communities and Local Government for preceding years, as lodged in the House Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has spent on staff costs related to the HCA Academy. [300443]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the Homes and Communities Agency's 2008-9 Annual Report which includes information about the HCA Academy's staff costs.

A copy of the Annual report and Accounts can be found in the Library of the House. They can also be found at the following web link:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/annual-report-2009.pdf

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: consultants, how much the Homes and Communities Academy spent on *(a)* the National and Regional Delivery Structure project, *(b)* the Brownfield Skills project, *(c)* the Endorsement Framework project, *(d)* the Benchmark and Toolkit project, *(e)* the Practical Knowledge to Support delivery project and *(f)* the programme staff costs project; and how much of each sum was spent on consultancy costs. [300515]

John Healey: The HCA Academy's project and consultancy spend on the projects listed above are as follows:

		£000
Workstream	*Total spend*	*Consultancy spend*
National and Regional Delivery Structure	30	30
Brownfield Skills	21	20
Endorsement Framework	46	46
Benchmark and Tool Kit	113	66
Practical knowledge to support delivery	127	100
Programme staff costs	261	0

The spend on programme staff costs include staff salaries, expenses and costs for staff seconded in from other organisations.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Homes and Communities Agency has had in the delivery of *(a)* the Mortgage Rescue scheme and *(b)* the National Clearing House. [300594]

John Healey: Since the Mortgage Rescue scheme's inception, the HCA has worked with the Government to ensure support is available for the most vulnerable households to avoid repossession and remain in their home by taking a lead role in working with and monitoring the performance of those RSLs delivering the scheme.

In May 2008, the Government announced a plan to take advantage of market opportunities to bring private sector developer stock into the affordable housing sector by earmarking £200 million of funding through the Housing Corporation (the Homes and Communities Agency's predecessor) National Affordable Housing programme (NAHP) budget for the purchase of homes from house builders.

To help facilitate the scheme, the Corporation set up the National Clearing House to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders. The Housing Corporation's Investment partners, mainly Registered Social Landlords, wishing to buy smaller numbers of units from developers could bid for funding directly to the Corporation in the normal way.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target was set for the Homes and Communities Agency in relation to private sector investment in its property and regeneration programme in 2008-09; and what such target has been set for 2009-10. [300595]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the 2009-2011 Homes and Communities Agency Corporate plan, which is available at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on each housing association (i) shared ownership product and (ii) try before you buy home scheme in the latest year for which figures are available. [300602]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1540-42W.

Allocations by housing associations are published on the Homes and Communities Agency website. Details of historic allocations can be found on the Housing Corporation website.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average per household entitlement to the proceeds of future sales of properties owned by the Homes and Communities Agency is under each HomeBuy scheme. [300612]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) does not own any of the current HomeBuy properties, but holds a second charge on HomeBuy Direct and First Time Buyers Initiative properties. No estimate is made as to the average entitlement per household for these as actual entitlement to proceeds of future sales is dependent on when the properties are sold and the price achieved at the point of sale. The HCA and developer/provider of the properties are entitled to a share of sales proceeds in proportion to the percentage of equity loan provided while the household is entitled to the remainder.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how much the Homes and Communities Agency's land at the Gateway site in Harlow was *(a)* purchased and *(b)* sold. [300613]

John Healey: The Harlow Gateway housing site was not purchased by the Homes and Communities Agency, as the freehold was transferred to the agency from a predecessor body. The HCA secured a receipt of £33.5 million for the land.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent under each budget category in exhibiting a show garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. [300616]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency provided £150,000 capital funding under the Places of Change programme towards the 'Key Garden' at the Chelsea Flower Show 2009. The garden was developed by over 200 homeless people from 25 homelessness services and prisons nationwide, in partnership with the Eden Project.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the entitlements of the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor to future sale proceeds resulting from the sale of homes under *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* New Build HomeBuy and *(f)* Social HomeBuy in each of the last three years. [300897]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is entitled to a share of sales proceeds when homes bought through HomeBuy Direct are sold by the purchaser. The scheme became operational in February 2009. No estimate has been made of the monetary value of the HCA's entitlements to future sales proceeds as it is dependent on when full or partial redemption of the equity loans are made and what the value of the loans are at the point of redemption.

Grant invested in OwnHome, MyChoice HomeBuy (Open Market HomeBuy products), New Build HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy properties, through registered social landlords (who own the properties) is credited to the Recycled Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) for provision of new social lets or other low cost homes when the properties are sold whole or through shared ownership terms.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private finance initiative credits the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor allocated in each of the last three years. [illegible]

John Healey: It is convention to record PFI credits in the financial year in which contracts are signed. Since the creation of the Homes and Communities Agency, PFI credits for housing projects have continued to be issued by this Department.

Housing PFI credits issued in each of the last financial years have been:

	£ million
2009-10 (to date)	0
2008-09	137.9
2007-08	283.4

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency secured in private sector contributions to its property and regeneration programme in 2008-09. [300902]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the Homes and Communities Agency's 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts, which are available at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target was set for the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of low cost homes ownership starts in 2008-09; and what target has been set for 2009-10. [300903]

John Healey: Details of the targets for low cost home ownership starts in 2008-09 are set out in the Housing Corporation Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, and the target for 2009-10 is set out in the Homes and Communities Agency Corporate Plan 2009-10—2010-11, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the Homes and Communities Agency Rural Housing Group has met since 1 December 2008; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [300905]

John Healey: Since 1 December 2008, the Homes and Communities Agency Rural Housing Advisory Group have met on 30 January, 13 May and 11 September 2009. The minutes of the meetings are available on the Homes and Communities website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/the-rural-housing-advisory-group

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on the Future Communities website; and how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions have been recorded by the site since its creation. [300907]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency has spent nothing on the Future Communities Website which is run by the Young Foundation. The Department does not hold information relating to parts *(a)* and *(b)* of this question.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sites listed as *(a)* Grade I and *(b)* Grade II the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor have redeveloped in each of the last three years; and how many homes have been built on such sites. [300909]

John Healey: The process of listing does not apply to sites.

Homes and Communities Agency: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff the Homes and Communities Agency has had on secondment since its establishment; from which organisations the employees were seconded; and what the cost of each secondment has been. [301597]

John Healey: There are approximately 50 secondees currently working in the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), most of them from Communities and Local Government. The overall cost of HCA posts filled by secondees rather than direct HCA employees since 1 December 2008 is approximately £2.3 million. Information on the cost of each secondment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Homes and Communities Agency: Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority has spent on signage since each was established. [301470]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1501-02W by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett). Since then the Homes and Communities Agency has spent an additional £34,000 and the TSA an additional £200 on signage.

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of his Department's *(a)* strategic objectives and *(b)* public service agreement targets require action from (i) the Tenant Services Authority and (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency. [301471]

John Healey: The work of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) contributes to the following public service agreements (PSAs):

PSA20: Increase long term housing supply and affordability

PSA21: Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities

PSA23: Make communities safer.

The TSA's work also contributes to three of Communities and Local Government's (CLG) six departmental strategic objectives (DSOs):

DSO2: To improve the supply, environmental performance and quality of housing that is more responsive to the needs of individuals, communities and the economy.

DSO3: To build prosperous communities by improving the economic performance of cities, sub-regions and local areas, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation.

DSO4: To develop communities that are cohesive, active and resilient to extremism.

The Homes and Communities Agency's corporate plan for 2009-10 to 2010-11 explains how it contributes to the Government's PSAs and CLG's DSOs. The corporate plan is available via the HCA's website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies there have been in *(a)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire, *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* the Test Valley of individuals in each age group in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 to date. [301150]

Ian Lucas: The available information for bankruptcies in Hampshire, Southampton and Test Valley, in 2008 by age group, can be seen in Table 1. Information for 2009 is not currently available, as regional insolvency statistics are only compiled on an annual basis.

Table 1: Bankruptcies by age - 2008[1]

	Age Group						
Area	*Under 25*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65 and Over*	*Unknown*
Hampshire	58	329	455	294	148	40	81
Southampton	20	104	116	67	31	12	22
Test Valley	33	198	227	144	81	15	21

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (96.9 per cent. of cases in 2008).

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300884]

Ian Lucas: At present, no Ministers and one official from the Department has been confirmed as attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Furs: Imports

Mr. Breed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the value was in sterling of fur pelts imported into the UK from China in each year since 1999. [300360]

Ian Lucas: The data in the following table show the value of imports from China recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics for raw, tanned or dressed furskins (Harmonized System codes 4301 and 4302):

£ million

	Lamb and sheep	*Other*	*Total*
1999	0.4	1.6	2.0
2000	0.7	3.2	3.9
2001	0.4	2.4	2.8
2002	1.2	1.7	2.9
2003	1.1	1.2	2.3
2004	0.8	1.8	2.6
2005	0.5	2.3	2.9
2006	1.0	2.6	3.6
2007	2.9	1.4	4.3
2008	2.0	1.2	3.2

Insolvency: Fees and Charges

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to set a cap on the fees charged by insolvency practitioners. [300679]

Ian Lucas: I have no plans to set a cap on the fees charged by insolvency practitioners, which are properly a matter for the creditors or the court.

However, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) confirmed on 12 November that they are to undertake a market study into the corporate insolvency market which may include analysis of the level of fees charged by insolvency practitioners as insolvency office-holders.

The Government believe that it is particularly important at this point in the downturn that creditors and employees who lose their jobs through insolvency have confidence that the fees charged by insolvency practitioners represent good value for the very important work they do and I look forward with interest to the outcome of the study announced by the Office of Fair Trading.

Students: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of applications for finance made to Student Finance England which are awaiting decision; and if he will make a statement. [300917]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company has released figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year. The information is available on the Student Loans Company website and includes information, under "application status", on "applications currently being processed" and "further information required from student/sponsors".

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average time taken to process applications for finance made to Student Finance England for the 2009-10 academic year; and if he will make a statement. [300918]

Mr. Lammy: I am informed by the SLC that, for those Student Finance England applications for both new students and those returning to University which had been approved by 1 November 2009, the average number of days from the date the applications were submitted to the date they were approved was 31 days.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the length of time for which Student Finance England has retained the passports of applicants for funding; and if he will make a statement. [300919]

Mr. Lammy: I have received two representations from applicants of Student Finance England complaining that passports had not yet been returned. Both were advised on the reasons for the delay and have now had their passports returned.

Students: Loans

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the salary threshold at which people are required to make payments towards their student loans. [301475]

Mr. Lammy: The repayment threshold is currently £15,000. The threshold is agreed between my Department and the Devolved Administrations. Early this year, the decision to raise the threshold from April 2010 by inflation was cancelled because the relevant RPI rate was negative, meaning the threshold would have been reduced and borrowers would have had to pay more. Instead the threshold was frozen at £15,000 for a further 12 months. We will be considering the threshold for April 2011 early in the new year.

Telephone Services

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate Ofcom has made of the average waiting time before speaking to a person when calling telephone numbers with *(a)* 0844, *(b)* 0845, *(c)* 0870 and *(d)* 0871 prefixes; and if he will make a statement. [300851]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate Ofcom has made of profit made by operators of lines with numbers with *(a)* 0844, *(b)* 0845, *(c)* 0870 and *(d)* 0871 prefixes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [300852]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged between 16 and 24 years were not in education, employment and training in *(a)* each year since 1992 and *(b)* the latest quarter for which figures are available. [300486]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people aged 16 to 24[1] in England who are not in employment, education or training in quarter four of each year since 2000. Due to incomplete data, estimates are not available prior to 2000.

These estimates are from the Labour Force Survey and will include pregnant mothers, those caring for children or relatives, people with a disability or suffering from ill health, and those waiting for a course or job to start, including those on a gap year.

[1] Age is based on academic age, which is defined as the age of the respondent at the preceding 31 August

Table 1: Number and percentage of 16 to 24 years-olds not in employment, education or training

	Number	Percentage (of all 16 to 24 years)
2000	629,000	12.3
2001	664,000	12.6
2002	659,000	12.2
2003	667,000	12.1
2004	744,000	13.2
2005	837,000	14.6
2006	808,000	13.9
2007	782,000	13.1
2008	857,000	14.2

In the latest quarter available, Q3 2009, there were 1,082,000 (18 per cent.) people aged 16 to 24 not in employment, education and training compared with 973,000 in Quarter 3 of 2008. It must be noted that a direct comparison between consecutive quarters cannot be made as quarterly NEET estimates from the LFS display a strong seasonal pattern.

Estimates for quarter three are always considerably higher than in quarter 4 because of the number of young people who are either between courses or who have recently left education.

Estimates for every quarter since 2005 have been produced by the Department for Children Schools and Families and are available here: NEET quarterly brief

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentres: Domestic Visits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what jobcentres she has visited since her appointment. [300300]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited St. Marylebone Jobcentre (part of Central London District) on 8 June, Leith Jobcentre (part of Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders District) on 1 July, Westminster Jobcentre (part of central London District) on 21 October and Chelmsford Jobcentre (part of Essex District) on 16 November.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301199]

Mr. Woodward: 12 November 2009.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what financial assistance his Department makes available to low-carbon building projects to help to improve their energy efficiency in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England. [300711]

Joan Ruddock: Through Budget 2009, Government made available £25 million for community heating infrastructure in the UK. Of this, £20.96 million was made available for schemes in England (and is being administered by the Homes and Communities Agency on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government). Through this fund we have allocated £1.5 million to provide Milton Keynes with a new biomethane plant which, along with the city's planned anaerobic digestion plant, will power households with green energy by injecting biomethane gas into the regional gas network.

Support for low carbon building projects is also provided through the work of the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board, funded by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The Technology Strategy Board has a significant programme of work relevant to this area under its Low Impact Buildings Innovation Platform.

In addition, my Department's policies also provide significant funding to support the retrofit of energy efficiency measures in existing homes, through programmes such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (£3.2 billion over 2008-11), Warm Front (£950 million over 2008-11), and the Community Energy Saving Programme (£350 million over 2009-12). In the Low Carbon Transition Plan we committed to continuing the CERT programme for at least a further 21 months potentially driving a further £1.9 billion of investment before the end of 2012.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300876]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is not planning to host any Christmas parties in 2009.

Community Energy Savings Programme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department plans to spend on the Community Energy Savings Programme in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and what estimate he has made of the (i) proportion of such expenditure to be incurred in England, (ii) the carbon savings to be achieved, (iii) the number of properties affected and (iv) the number of jobs created from such expenditure in each year. [300477]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) is funded by an obligation on energy suppliers and generators. They are expected to install around £350 million worth of energy efficiency measures across GB in the CESP obligation period, from 1 September 2009 to December 2012. DECC does not fund the programme.

There are around 4,500 eligible CESP areas across GB, 3248 are in England. Within this constraint energy companies, working with local authorities and community groups, are free to choose where they deliver CESP. The programme is expected to deliver up to 100 projects across GB, benefiting c90,000 households and saving 2.9mtCO$_2$ over the lifetime of the programme.

Given CESP's focus on delivering energy efficiency measures to hundreds of households in each particular area targeted we expect this to create business and employment opportunities. For example, the energy companies are currently assessing their options for delivering CESP including in the first instance recruiting staff where necessary and reviewing their supply chains to deliver the significant number of energy efficiency measures expected under CESP.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300199]

Joan Ruddock: There are no current plans to sell any of the assets of the Department of Energy and Climate Change in any of the years from 2009-10 to 2013-14.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300178]

Joan Ruddock: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

DECC was established after the information in this report was collated, therefore the percentage of meat, fruit and vegetables procured domestically within the estate currently occupied by DECC is included within the information provided on the attached report under DEFRA.

A third report is expected to be published shortly.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300639]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows:

(a) Bonuses to consultants or contractors are not paid by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Contracts are let for a service at the market rate determined by competition.

(b) Incentives are not paid to consultants or contractors. Suppliers can benefit from early payment and shared reduction of cost. Incentives are used without a cost to the Department when milestones are included into contracts, allowing early payment to the supplier as they are paid on completion of milestones. This is an incentive to the supplier to finish the work on schedule. The Department also seeks innovative solutions from suppliers wherever possible. In some contracts this may allow a reduction of costs that can be shared between both the Department and the supplier.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301197]

Joan Ruddock: 23 November 2009.

Energy: Mobile Homes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has taken steps to help park home residents reduce their *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* heating bills. [301082]

Joan Ruddock: It is difficult to reduce the carbon emissions and heating bills of park homes due to the lack of scope for key energy efficiency measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation. Where scope does exist, such as through draught-proofing and high-efficiency lights and appliances, assistance is available to park homes residents through schemes such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and Warm Front.

Warm Front is currently working in partnership with a gas distributor and a local residents association to enable 61 residents of Elm Tree caravan park in Hartlepool to be connected to the mains gas network. This project meant these homes, previously utilising liquid petroleum gas, coal or forms of electric heating, reduced their likely energy bills and likely carbon consumption. The project considerably reduced the otherwise prohibitive cost that had prevented each park home individually connecting to the gas network.

The Warm Front Scheme has also begun a piloting exercise of external wall insulation for 100 park home properties. If this trial is successful, then this may be included as a main measure offered through the scheme.

Free expert advice on practical ways to save energy in the home is also available through the ACT ON CO2 advice line.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of homes which would benefit from insulation. [300588]

Joan Ruddock: Almost all homes can benefit from further insulation, whether this is through taking relatively simple actions such as topping up levels of loft insulation and filling un-insulated cavity wall, or though more difficult or expensive steps such as insulating floors, installing high efficiency glazing or fitting solid wall insulation.

We have made good progress insulating lofts and cavity walls with five million homes insulated between 2002 and 2008 and a commitment to insulate a further six million homes by 2011. The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HESS) consultation published in February sets out our ambitions to insulate all of the remaining lofts and cavities where practical by 2015. The HESS also explains the approaches we are considering to make it easier for households to take on more difficult or expensive forms of insulation and thus gain the benefits of reduced energy bills and a warmer home.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of domestic dwellings to have been insulated in each year since 1997. [300589]

Joan Ruddock: For the period between 1997 and 2001 on average around 250,000 homes were insulated per year (loft and cavity wall insulation).

From 2002, with the introduction of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) figures rose. For the first period—EEC1 which ran from April 2002 to March 2005 around 1.9 million homes were insulated (roof, cavity and solid wall insulation). For EEC2, which run until April 2008, around 3.3 million homes were insulated.

In 2008 my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made the commitment to insulate a further six million homes by 2011 and the Government are on track to deliver this target. In April 2008, the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) replaced EEC with a new more ambitious target. In the year following April 2008 around 1.5 million homes were insulated by CERT and other programmes. In addition, as set out in the Low Carbon Transition Plan, the Government have committed to extend CERT to the end of 2012 with an even stronger focus on delivering insulation.

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the amount of black carbon which would be emitted consequent upon achieving biomass targets as set out in his Department's renewable energy strategy. [300406]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: Specific estimates of black carbon emission have not been made in support of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy.

The emissions of black carbon for each unit of heat delivered are likely to decrease in future as a result of measures announced in the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy. Efficient modern biomass appliances have advanced combustion control systems. When maintained adequately and fuelled correctly, the particles emitted under normal operating conditions are primarily composed of the inorganic salts naturally present in the wood, not carbonaceous material.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the renewable energy sector in each of the last five years; what the purpose is of the £18 million additional funding for the UK clean energy sector available via the Carbon Trust; and how many green start-up renewable energy companies *(a)* have had and *(b)* will receive such funding from the Carbon Trust. [300499]

Joan Ruddock: According to recent research published by the Carbon Trust building on research by New Energy Finance, total UK venture capital clean energy[1] investment (including renewables) between 2003 and 2008 was:

	€ million
2003	131
2004	123
2005	182
2006	167
2007	269
2008	83

The purpose of the up to £18 million additional venture capital investment available via the Carbon Trust is to meet the current market failure in the provision of private sector venture capital investment for early stage low carbon companies.

Since the Carbon Trust was set up, it has provided funding to 17 green start-up energy companies investing over £13.5m. This funding has also helped these businesses to leverage over £117 million of private sector investment.

No investments have yet been made from the £18 million additional funding but four companies are in due diligence and a further 10 are under active consideration.

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[1] We do not hold independent data for overall renewable technology investment separate from clean energy.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress the Government have made on meeting the targets stipulated in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 during *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [300809]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 required the publication of a strategy to include

> "a target date for achieving the objective of ensuring that as far as reasonably practicable persons in England or Wales do not live in fuel poverty."

Annual reports on progress are published and copies are placed in the House Library. Web links to the 2008 and 2009 Annual Progress reports are at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/fuel_poverty/strategy/annual_report/annual_report.aspx

JUSTICE

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300890]

Mr. Wills: There are no Ministers or civil servants from the Ministry of Justice who will be attending the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Drugs: Crime

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been found guilty of offences of drug *(a)* possession and *(b)* dealing in Avon and Somerset in each year since 1997. [300748]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug possession and dealing in the Avon and Somerset police force area from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for the possession and dealing of drugs in the Avon and Somerset police force area, 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

Offence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Having possession of a controlled drug	381	422	541	581	523	502	504	420	375	422	574
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply	75	99	86	89	101	110	124	115	116	120	150
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug	83	85	92	83	58	45	74	64	58	36	58

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

European Convention on Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been a proportionate alleviation or suspension of a specific right provided for in the European Convention on Human Rights since the Convention was ratified by the Government. [300383]

Mr. Wills: The majority of the rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights are not absolute. Most rights are qualified, which means that interference with a right is permitted where that is in accordance with the law, proportionate to a certain specified aim, and/or necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others. For example, it is sometimes necessary to balance the right of the media to freedom of expression with the right of individuals to respect for their private life. Many areas of Government policy involve making these difficult decisions on a daily basis and it is not possible to list them exhaustively. It is also possible for states party to make reservations to some rights or to derogate from some articles of the convention in times of emergency. However, the UK currently has no derogations to the convention.

Offenders: Drugs and Mentally Ill

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) offences and (ii) reoffences which are committed each year by those with substance misuse problems; [300804]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) offences and (ii) reoffences which are committed each year by those with mental health problems. [300796]

Claire Ward: The requested information is not available. The Ministry of Justice's extract of data from the police national computer can provide information on the previous convictions and reoffences of offenders. However, the database does not identify offenders with substance misuse problems or those with mental health problems.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform was in each year since it was created; and what its budget is expected to be in each of the next five years. [301478]

Claire Ward: The annual budget for the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) for the last five years was provided in an answer to the hon. Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 999 and 1000W.

OCJR's budget for 2009-10 is £129.1 million resource and £20.5 million capital. The budget for 2010-11 has yet to be finalised and budgets from 2011-12 will be determined in the next spending review.

Prisoner's Release

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the results of his Department's investigation into the release of a prisoner on remand by mistake from HM Prison Chelmsford on 16 October 2009. [301132]

Maria Eagle: I understand that the hon. Member is referring to the release of a prisoner on 16 November 2009.

It is not Ministry of Justice policy for the contents of investigations to be made public however, I will write to the hon. Member with a summary of the findings, when they are received.

Young People: Crime Prevention

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which youth offending teams were assessed as requiring significant improvement at their most recent inspections. [301044]

Maria Eagle: This year HMI Probation introduced a new core case inspection regime for youth offending teams (YOTs) looking at three specific areas of practice—safeguarding, risk of harm to others and risk of reoffending. To date only the inspection reports of North West YOTs have been published. Of the 21 YOTs in the North West 12 were assessed as requiring significant improvement in at least one area of practice. Three YOTs were assessed as requiring substantial improvement in a single area of the inspected work: Cumbria, Manchester and Stockport. The following were assessed as requiring substantial improvement in two or more of the areas inspected: Bolton, Bury, Lancashire, Liverpool, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside and Wirral. In addition Sefton YOT was assessed as requiring drastic improvement in two of the three areas and substantial improvement in the other.

The assessment of YOT performance does not rest soley with the HMI Probation core case inspection. It has been designed to include two distinct but complementary processes which together give a complete picture of the performance of a YOT Partnership. The HMIP Inspection regime looks in depth at practice whilst the YJB YOT assessment is at a strategic level and looks additionally at: reducing re-offending; first time entrants; engagement in education, training and employment; access to suitable accommodation; public and victim confidence and reducing numbers in custody. The most recent YJB quarterly assessment of YOT performance was completed in July. The results for the 139 English YOTs show that 79 per cent. of YOTs were classified as either good or outstanding.

Young People: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been received by each youth offending team in each of the last three years; how much such funding each such team will receive in the next three years; and what formula is used to calculate allocations to such teams. [301045]

Maria Eagle: Youth offending teams (YOTs) receive funding from a number of sources. The table shows financial contributions made to YOTs via the Youth Justice Board and other Government sources (including police, probation, social services and via local authorities) by financial year:

The Youth Justice Board funding is divided between Wales and England in the ratio 5 to 85. The YJB grant funding for England is allocated to individual YOTs according to the prescribed formula, in which 40 per cent. weighting is given to the local 10-17 population, 10 per cent. to the geographical size of the area, and 50 per cent. in aggregate to 'Deprivation Indices'—Local Concentration, Extent (the proportion of a YOT's population living in the wards which rank within the most deprived 10 per cent. of wards in the country), income deprivement, employment deprivement, average of ward ranks, average of ward scores.

These indices are compiled by Communities and Local Government and full details are available on their website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdr7131206.pdf

The YJB grant funding for YOTs in Wales is allocated on the same basis with slight variations on the main formula.

Additional Government funds, as reported to the YJB by YOTs, are allocated at individual local area level and the YJB has no information on how these funds are allocated

The full set of data returns from youth offending teams are yet to be submitted for 2009-10, therefore figures cannot be made available at this time. Final allocations for 2010-11 and 2011-12 will be allocated at the beginning of the respective financial year. Allocations will use the current formula outlined above.

The data contained in this answer are supplied by the YJB and comprise data supplied from youth offending teams in England and Wales via monthly or quarterly returns to the YJB. As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

£

	Total			*YJB*			*Additional government funding*		
YOT	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[1]	*2008-09*
Barking and Dagenham	1,864,512	2,034,248	2,416,377	629,995	711,731	728,377	1,234,517	1,322,517	1,688,000

£

	Total			YJB			Additional government funding		
YOT	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07[1]	2007-08[1]	2008-09
Barnet	902,614	999,654	1,072,586	310,030	351,198	451,516	592,584	648,456	621,070
Barnsley	1,478,699	1,574,873	1,932,637	506,854	573,943	787,447	971,845	1,000,930	1,145,190
Bath and North East Somerset	639,714	662,964	821,763	196,013	234,639	278,827	443,701	428,325	542,936
Bedfordshire	2,058,635	2,259,193	2,293,606	531,546	566,479	607,350	1,527,089	1,692,714	1,686,256
Bexley	887,371	921,885	992,142	246,321	286,493	314,607	641,050	635,392	677,535
Birmingham	9,224,489	9,485,873	10,034,391	3,131,725	3,281,517	3,755,001	6,092,764	6,204,356	6,279,390
Blackburn with Darwen	1,859,352	1,630,567	1,976,656	610,331	634,407	835,571	1,249,021	996,160	1,141,085
Blackpool	1,427,385	1,429,786	1,565,250	484,812	543,875	623,187	942,573	885,910	942,063
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	1,916,543	2,040,336	2,349,211	887,336	982,156	1,083,093	1,029,207	1,058,180	1,266,118
Bolton	1,461,625	1,482,333	1,575,845	646,419	723,260	816,360	815,206	759,073	759,485
Bournemouth and Poole	1,251,397	1,181,506	1,244,565	470,265	361,444	410,463	781,132	820,062	834,102
Bracknell Forest	587,378	645,199	682,184	129,120	150,659	166,925	458,258	494,540	515,259
Bradford	3,442,491	3,440,127	3,991,440	1,526,268	1,659,138	1,915,964	1,916,223	1,780,989	2,075,476
Brent	1,531,258	1,920,952	1,858,132	496,174	818,674	870,683	1,035,084	1,102,278	987,449
Bridgend	781,237	824,548	906,124	205,659	215,963	220,738	575,578	608,585	685,386
Brighton and Hove	1,092,925	1,258,661	1,372,910	238,768	291,463	412,198	854,157	967,198	960,712
Bristol	2,970,490	3,110,839	3,314,888	1,029,955	1,063,683	1,228,533	1,940,535	2,047,156	2,086,355
Bromley	822,688	1,189,830	1,563,759	277,409	318,683	358,965	545,279	871,147	1,204,794
Buckinghamshire	1,854,962	1,896,197	2,107,616	672,723	668,513	728,605	1,182,239	1,227,684	1,379,011
Bury	1,784,640	1,913,738	1,381,533	784,227	835,510	409,457	1,000,413	1,078,228	972,076
Calderdale	1,794,751	1,777,023	1,879,800	808,430	699,650	858,780	986,321	1,077,373	1,021,020
Cambridgeshire	1,832,854	1,951,115	1,933,562	893,108	902,035	1,005,475	939,746	1,049,080	928,087
Camden	2,536,399	2,754,176	2,602,427	1,090,385	1,181,090	1,271,882	1,446,014	1,573,086	1,330,545
Cardiff	2,025,414	2,461,353	2,814,433	568,064	955,480	1,062,583	1,457,350	1,505,873	1,751,850
Carmarthenshire	1,151,965	1,124,717	1,382,055	450,247	385,855	395,108	701,718	738,862	986,947
Ceredigion	553,132	599,176	747,317	201,279	206,249	199,464	351,853	392,927	547,853
Cheshire	2,254,651	2,458,230	2,568,442	644,472	753,359	823,498	1,610,179	1,704,871	1,744,944
Conwy and Denbighshire	1,129,085	1,028,792	1,076,726	412,148	330,792	390,726	716,937	698,000	686,000
Cornwall	1,870,500	2,021,943	2,145,114	759,619	875,383	974,145	1,110,881	1,146,560	1,170,969
Coventry	2,658,474	2,583,743	2,847,999	866,519	925,735	1,009,415	1,791,955	1,658,008	1,838,584
Croydon	2,786,038	2,756,545	2,945,833	1,165,538	1,204,885	1,299,333	1,620,500	1,551,660	1,646,500
Cumbria	2,387,172	2,580,113	2,761,464	1,028,223	1,192,342	1,254,999	1,358,949	1,387,771	1,506,465
Darlington	937,562	974,988	1,023,681	275,075	282,170	308,948	662,487	692,818	714,733
Derby	2,089,814	2,187,210	2,248,864	763,335	818,320	910,120	1,326,479	1,368,890	1,338,744
Derbyshire	2,408,224	2,646,724	3,070,595	768,234	883,962	981,634	1,639,990	1,762,762	2,088,961
Devon	2,684,288	3,121,356	3,183,190	1,000,688	1,170,746	1,287,421	1,683,600	1,950,610	1,895,769
Doncaster	2,076,931	2,183,626	2,507,461	748,663	814,861	1,128,473	1,328,268	1,368,765	1,378,988
Dorset	1,378,137	1,570,619	1,690,021	545,802	673,087	744,280	832,335	897,532	945,741
Dudley	2,125,460	2,323,492	2,452,252	1,117,686	1,189,645	1,241,248	1,007,774	1,133,647	1,211,004
Durham	3,831,998	3,980,139	4,156,517	1,015,571	1,120,518	1,190,983	2,816,427	2,859,621	2,965,534
Ealing	2,257,307	1,981,743	1,863,359	1,339,527	685,349	762,121	917,780	1,296,394	1,101,238
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,090,861	1,212,664	1,297,022	488,133	562,957	613,135	602,728	649,707	683,887
East Sussex	1,820,513	2,099,540	2,263,041	663,772	773,899	840,160	1,156,741	1,325,641	1,422,881
Enfield	1,544,651	2,015,506	1,923,573	491,155	405,944	448,509	1,053,496	1,609,562	1,475,064
Essex	4,022,627	4,156,126	4,343,840	1,426,627	1,633,126	1,772,840	2,596,000	2,523,000	2,571,000
Flintshire	847,579	1,124,875	1,354,398	371,203	594,180	580,144	476,376	530,695	774,254
Gateshead	1,162,906	1,225,557	2,076,698	374,906	434,557	511,702	786,000	791,000	1,564,996
Gloucestershire	3,004,674	3,135,402	3,477,297	754,581	840,772	884,053	2,250,093	2,294,630	2,593,244
Greenwich	1,817,550	2,310,485	1,482,509	1,181,438	1,340,259	595,046	636,112	970,226	887,463
Gwynedd Mon	968,418	1,188,972	1,249,465	376,588	510,692	498,215	591,830	678,280	751,250
Hackney	3,298,746	3,756,702	3,352,122	872,902	788,593	864,389	2,425,844	2,968,109	2,487,733
Halton and Warrington	1,424,752	1,867,972	1,837,589	704,784	818,418	867,832	719,968	1,049,554	969,757
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,636,021	1,757,262	1,671,817	769,913	814,523	846,322	866,108	942,739	825,495
Haringey	2,566,076	3,002,639	2,457,459	1,140,816	1,165,708	1,250,079	1,425,260	1,836,931	1,207,380

£

		Total			*YJB*			*Additional government funding*	
YOT	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[1]	*2008-09*
Harrow	910,913	1,193,041	1,361,831	230,423	525,825	632,381	680,490	667,216	729,450
Hartlepool	1,292,825	1,405,210	1,474,033	450,991	496,992	543,540	841,834	908,218	930,493
Havering	1,010,340	1,009,450	1,116,003	355,841	395,808	425,904	654,499	613,642	690,099
Hertfordshire	3,792,402	3,936,853	4,158,573	1,075,804	1,149,583	[illegible]40,253	2,716,598	2,787,270	2,918,320
Hillingdon	1,347,589	1,428,823	1,504,057	278,911	306,415	351,275	1,068,678	1,122,408	1,152,782
Hounslow	1,279,268	1,530,175	1,728,616	350,238	624,434	773,491	929,030	905,741	955,125
Islington	1,498,506	1,644,247	1,708,383	568,671	650,522	799,638	929,835	993,725	908,745
Kensington and Chelsea	1,351,910	1,567,696	1,508,106	536,899	578,616	488,789	815,011	989,080	1,019,317
Kent	6,846,151	7,679,376	7,669,959	1,798,427	1,995,435	2,136,752	5,047,724	5,683,941	5,533,207
Kingston-upon-Hull	2,206,528	2,390,299	2,501,233	969,910	1,024,888	1,038,733	1,236,618	1,365,411	1,462,500
Kingston-upon-Thames	815,984	859,376	993,374	152,484	172,676	199,574	663,500	686,700	793,800
Kirklees	2,694,618	2,977,398	3,120,354	605,647	919,443	1,139,070	2,088,971	2,057,955	1,981,284
Knowsley	2,061,081	1,765,141	1,976,253	833,232	620,267	693,427	1,227,849	1,144,874	1,282,826
Lambeth	2,943,593	2,822,857	3,207,021	776,775	932,812	1,231,779	2,166,818	1,890,045	1,975,242
Lancashire	5,172,766	5,522,706	5,675,691	1,935,266	2,212,406	2,281,082	3,237,500	3,310,300	3,394,609
Leeds	6,362,314	6,754,804	7,085,133	2,436,454	2,517,151	2,459,318	3,925,860	4,237,653	4,625,815
Leicester City	3,600,679	3,782,109	3,869,922	1,151,779	1,288,269	1,433,022	2,448,900	2,493,840	2,436,900
Leicestershire	2,229,654	2,579,780	2,705,272	633,234	676,600	730,197	1,596,420	1,903,180	1,975,075
Lewisham	1,992,119	2,293,805	3,376,436	549,536	624,011	1,660,429	1,442,583	1,669,794	1,716,007
Lincolnshire	3,010,301	3,365,813	3,289,713	1,098,043	1,215,488	1,317,254	1,912,258	2,150,325	1,972,459
Liverpool	4,742,310	5,145,453	5,404,968	1,975,590	2,133,434	2,280,400	2,766,720	3,012,019	3,124,568
Luton	1,931,358	1,969,154	1,993,004	714,267	645,489	729,971	1,217,091	1,323,665	1,263,033
Manchester	5,115,499	4,920,985	5,210,028	2,268,438	2,115,102	2,316,776	2,847,061	2,805,883	2,893,252
Medway	1,006,352	1,082,428	1,175,072	310,943	385,260	475,387	695,409	697,168	699,685
Merthyr Tydfil	685,324	679,962	638,200	259,503	241,258	225,242	425,821	438,704	412,958
Merton	720,794	792,337	818,509	196,592	230,135	251,058	524,202	562,202	567,451
Milton Keynes	1,423,692	1,361,331	1,487,737	428,637	445,193	480,960	995,055	916,138	1,006,777
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	1,193,948	1,261,781	1,296,695	262,025	293,522	287,326	931,923	968,259	1,009,369
Neath Port Talbot	2,344,121	1,568,532	1,718,232	1,623,536	798,187	819,781	720,585	770,345	898,451
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2,414,803	2,717,704	3,079,940	1,287,378	1,390,334	1,529,091	1,127,425	1,327,370	1,550,849
Newham[1]	3,028,204	4,959,721	3,482,334	1,557,139	1,573,546	1,587,134	1,471,065	3,386,175	1,895,200
Newport	1,028,332	1,148,817	1,314,650	315,266	375,701	366,711	713,066	773,116	947,939
Norfolk	3,668,154	4,096,742	3,516,482	1,050,199	1,212,056	1,320,925	2,617,955	2,884,686	2,195,557
North East Lincolnshire	1,013,614	1,341,174	1,644,874	482,748	539,108	660,299	530,866	802,066	984,575
North Lincolnshire	1,293,440	1,318,798	1,250,116	733,073	713,815	644,116	560,367	604,983	606,000
North Somerset	657,176	727,793	1,082,568	233,226	276,789	332,184	423,950	451,004	750,384
North Tyneside	1,238,810	1,181,188	1,158,006	461,139	371,178	438,438	777,671	810,010	719,568
North Yorkshire	2,428,033	2,809,317	3,213,336	1,324,269	1,407,174	1,537,104	1,103,764	1,402,143	1,676,232
Northamptonshire	3,446,717	3,605,073	3,796,501	960,777	971,083	1,000,631	2,485,940	2,633,990	2,795,870
Northumberland	1,914,385	2,088,491	2,199,627	598,608	678,246	767,972	1,315,777	1,410,245	1,431,655
Nottingham	3,027,011	3,173,817	3,503,957	1,354,709	1,437,330	1,564,137	1,672,302	1,736,487	1,939,820
Nottinghamshire	3,955,855	4,179,634	4,243,213	1,522,157	1,688,264	1,791,385	2,433,698	2,491,370	2,451,828
Oldham	2,567,948	1,896,623	2,015,584	1,453,898	843,945	943,681	1,114,050	1,052,678	1,071,903
Oxfordshire	3,062,703	2,830,607	3,071,403	858,275	923,582	1,018,463	2,204,428	1,907,025	2,052,940
Pembrokeshire	718,615	769,331	1,000,973	272,194	299,551	313,137	446,421	469,780	687,836
Peterborough	1,838,465	2,013,689	2,071,305	769,595	834,014	946,236	1,068,870	1,179,675	1,125,069
Plymouth	1,290,567	1,332,249	1,406,106	556,383	555,774	608,968	734,184	776,475	797,138
Powys	978,336	918,970	1,152,847	344,380	329,325	379,367	633,956	589,645	773,480
Reading[2]	1,776,264	1,439,227	1,586,468	871,258	815,742	828,807	905,006	623,485	757,661
Redbridge	2,127,060	2,084,378	2,226,718	435,485	512,079	583,189	1,691,575	1,572,299	1,643,529
Rhondda Cynon Taff	2,015,198	2,399,044	2,434,570	471,463	843,873	864,271	1,543,735	1,555,171	1,570,299
Richmond-upon-Thames	607,680	677,156	985,079	150,680	175,656	192,439	457,000	501,500	792,640
Rochdale	1,556,568	2,109,371	2,363,578	603,568	883,371	986,352	953,000	1,226,000	1,377,226

£

	Total			*YJB*			*Additional government funding*		
YOT	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[1]	*2008-09*
Rotherham	2,774,829	2,921,986	2,128,479	1,771,829	1,886,986	1,025,323	1,003,000	1,035,000	1,103,156
Salford	1,284,647	1,440,538	1,564,546	634,332	702,803	804,544	650,315	737,735	760,002
Sandwell	1,872,778	2,016,566	2,241,746	620,271	692,979	809,693	1,252,507	1,323,587	1,432,053
Sefton	1,770,920	1,859,297	2,219,476	404,020	585,397	659,976	1,366,900	1,273,900	1,559,500
Sheffield	2,826,712	3,008,846	3,705,487	826,712	913,846	1,610,487	2,000,000	2,095,000	2,095,000
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	1,737,111	1,836,798	1,960,473	607,301	665,478	768,783	1,129,810	1,171,320	1,191,690
Slough	1,016,149	1,074,369	1,179,948	325,424	362,366	431,427	690,725	712,003	748,521
Solihull	1,066,229	1,111,457	1,269,713	325,687	369,356	474,791	740,542	742,101	794,922
Somerset	2,565,106	2,677,890	2,674,683	990,646	1,054,800	1,114,859	1,574,460	1,623,090	1,559,824
South Gloucestershire[1]	827,847	897,256	937,148	288,847	334,256	391,918	539,000	563,000	545,230
South Tees	3,459,515	3,241,109	3,037,495	1,993,936	2,038,267	2,120,401	1,465,579	1,202,842	917,094
South Tyneside	1,793,238	1,626,431	1,678,341	529,197	412,259	484,075	1,264,041	1,214,172	1,194,266
Southend-on-Sea	695,799	842,347	946,923	253,149	387,806	418,059	442,650	454,541	528,864
Southwark	3,373,859	3,599,941	4,083,933	738,694	747,097	915,759	2,635,165	2,852,844	3,168,174
St. Helens	1,200,059	1,313,869	1,380,941	519,878	533,816	587,439	680,181	780,053	793,502
Staffordshire	4,592,052	4,594,322	4,822,642	2,209,322	2,114,992	2,317,942	2,382,730	2,479,330	2,504,700
Stockport	1,406,960	1,633,803	1,735,856	318,571	576,733	657,828	1,088,389	1,057,070	1,078,028
Stockton-on-Tees	1,151,909	1,259,183	1,348,972	472,163	537,837	567,118	679,746	721,346	781,854
Stoke-on-Trent	2,328,801	2,445,423	2,535,059	796,107	825,337	870,677	1,532,694	1,620,086	1,664,382
Suffolk	3,286,798	3,546,540	3,573,334	1,067,798	1,154,189	1,236,939	2,219,000	2,392,351	2,336,395
Sunderland	3,596,790	4,067,531	4,108,128	1,651,268	1,727,424	1,677,651	1,945,522	2,340,107	2,430,477
Surrey	2,743,749	2,896,715	2,983,696	1,038,927	1,073,381	1,163,820	1,704,822	1,823,334	1,819,876
Sutton	787,454	925,416	807,574	200,873	227,497	261,866	586,581	697,919	545,708
Swansea	1,760,759	2,064,050	2,327,065	472,459	686,476	701,448	1,288,300	1,377,574	1,625,617
Swindon	892,880	969,585	1,069,756	253,432	309,551	393,243	639,448	660,034	676,513
Tameside	1,346,445	1,490,302	1,635,014	742,709	836,064	930,535	603,736	654,238	704,479
Thurrock	1,061,063	1,042,422	1,131,938	445,808	391,949	424,572	615,255	650,473	707,366
Torbay	845,478	853,693	896,815	276,742	287,201	309,622	568,736	566,492	587,193
Tower Hamlets and City of London	1,741,447	1,864,442	1,983,377	656,388	746,831	863,940	1,085,059	1,117,611	1,119,437
Trafford	2,340,245	2,512,420	2,869,739	1,362,229	1,613,685	1,937,037	978,016	898,735	932,702
Vale of Glamorgan	1,022,278	991,459	994,364	190,195	198,429	192,508	832,083	793,030	801,856
Wakefield	1,796,211	1,981,690	2,159,545	797,973	868,093	1,016,503	998,238	1,113,597	1,143,042
Walsall	1,621,932	1,722,936	2,099,155	402,721	464,327	514,349	1,219,211	1,258,609	1,584,806
Waltham Forest	1,557,007	2,026,516	958,040	701,632	779,941	871,224	855,375	1,246,575	86,816
Wandsworth	2,464,030	2,217,787	2,028,546	1,087,556	907,674	789,616	1,376,474	1,310,113	1,238,930
Warwickshire	2,290,645	2,271,891	2,469,646	633,776	727,644	791,950	1,657,069	1,544,247	1,677,696
Wessex	7,606,998	7,563,178	8,381,509	2,223,941	2,419,490	2,812,339	5,383,057	5,143,688	5,569,170
West Berkshire	760,190	881,133	963,841	170,982	198,133	224,335	589,208	683,000	739,506
West Sussex	2,390,344	2,368,313	1,992,035	826,068	897,291	968,706	1,564,276	1,471,022	1,023,329
Westminster	1,746,831	1,825,591	2,306,351	414,981	493,741	631,051	1,331,850	1,331,850	1,675,300
Wigan	1,793,352	1,946,132	2,132,530	438,555	508,675	618,055	1,354,797	1,437,457	1,514,475
Wiltshire	1,505,228	1,620,205	1,691,328	623,303	712,461	784,512	881,925	907,744	906,816
Windsor and Maidenhead	722,164	668,857	684,847	143,787	167,292	189,892	578,377	501,565	494,955
Wirral	2,267,395	2,366,442	2,643,605	799,123	873,412	934,572	1,468,272	1,493,030	1,709,033
Wokingham[1]	—	378,822	558,287	—	141,372	165,549	—	237,450	392,738
Wolverhampton	2,433,318	2,873,856	3,028,619	605,198	731,466	871,412	1,628,120	2,142,390	2,157,207
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	3,022,248	3,194,828	3,339,657	1,159,296	1,286,592	1,388,272	1,862,952	1,908,236	1,951,385
Wrexham	1,193,755	1,126,659	1,511,879	457,357	257,190	260,920	736,398	869,469	1,250,959
York	714,175	835,777	874,664	223,208	256,624	275,134	490,967	579,153	599,530
Total	322,108,739	343,430,286	361,370,945	118,481,713	126,762,030	138,557,446	203,627,026	216,668,256	222,813,499

[1] Totals indicated differ from those published in the Youth Justice Annual Workload Data for 2006-07 and 2007-08, due to subsequent resubmissions by South Gloucestershire and Newham respectively.

[2] Reading and Wokingham split into Reading YOT and Wokingham YOT from April 2007.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many National Challenge schools are academy schools. [301250]

Mr. Coaker: Based on the most recently available GCSE results (2008), there are 32 academies below the National Challenge benchmark of at least 30 per cent. of KS4 pupils achieving five A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths. An updated figure will be available in January 2010 when the validated 2009 GCSE results are published.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will assess the merits of using independent disability experts to review and monitor current and future Building Schools for the Future new build proposals; [301080]

(2) what discussions he has had with national disability groups on their input to school design and access planning under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [301093]

(3) what involvement there has been for parents of children with disabilities or special educational needs in reviewing the criteria for school new builds under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [301094]

(4) what his policy is on involving *(a)* parents, *(b)* children and *(c)* disability groups in building design criteria for schools which admit children with disabilities and special educational needs; and if he will make a statement; [301095]

(5) what discussions he has had with Partnerships for Schools about the effectiveness of his Department's guidance for adaptations for children with disabilities and special educational needs in implementation of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [301096]

(6) how many school new build design proposals under the Building Schools for the Future programme have been subject to revision because of access problems for children with disabilities and special educational needs. [301097]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children Schools and Families and Partnerships for Schools are committed to inclusive design and there are a number of processes in place to ensure that Building Schools for the Future new build proposals meet the needs of children with disabilities and special educational needs:

> The design of a new school has to comply with Approved Document M of the Building Regulations 'Access to and use of buildings' and this is checked through the Building Control system.
>
> Under the Disability Discrimination Act, all buildings have to provide suitable access for disabled people.
>
> Teams bidding for Building Schools for the Future projects cannot proceed through to procurement if their sample designs do not meet a Minimum Design Standard judged by a panel set up by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) which includes people with experience in special school design and accessibility.
>
> The Building Schools for the Future standard contract documentation includes a requirement to create an access document, which records all actions taken to ensure access and inclusion are appropriate.

In addition, the Department and Partnerships for Schools have regular contact with a variety of disability groups over design matters. For example, a number of organisations—including the Council for Disabled Children, the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)—advised the Department on its publication Building Bulletin 102: 'Designing for Disabled Children and Children with Special Educational Needs', which is the main reference guide for designing inclusive mainstream and special schools in Building Schools for the Future.

More recently DCSF ministers and officials have held extensive discussions with the NDCS about acoustics in Building Schools for the Future projects.

The Department and Partnerships for Schools encourage local authorities and designers to involve all children—including those with disabilities or special educational needs—and their parents in the design briefing process. The Design Quality Indicator (DQI) for Schools, which helps staff children, and parents to establish what they want in their new building, is mandatory for all Building Schools for the Future projects over £1 million. The resulting information has to be submitted to the Minimum Design Standard panel to inform their decision on whether the design is suitable and passes the threshold. Partnerships for Schools also use the DQI information to inform Building Schools for the Future benchmarking, and in turn to improve the design brief template that forms part of the Building Schools for the Future standard documentation. For more information on the DQI for Schools process, see:

www.dqi.org.uk

In addition, Partnerships for Schools encourages all students involved in Building Schools for the Future to take part in the Sorrell Foundation's 'joinedupdesign' sessions where they create a Pupils' Brief to be fed into the schools design brief. For more information on joinedupdesign, see:

www.thesorrellfoundation.com

The Department and Partnerships for Schools have estimated that around 50 per cent. of Building Schools for the Future projects will involve remodelling or refurbishment. All design guidance issued by the Department and Partnerships for Schools has therefore been written with this in mind. Building Bulletin 102: 'Designing for Disabled Children and Children with Special Educational Needs' can be used to design new facilities and for assessing the suitability of existing accommodation.

The Department does not routinely collect information about revisions that have been made to new build proposals. But we expect all school projects to be designed to be accessible and inclusive, following the requirements of the Building Regulations, the DDA and the Departments design guidance.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have been refurbished through the Building Schools for the Future programme; how many of them were found to have asbestos; and how many had that asbestos removed; [301091]

(2) how much has been spent on refurbishing schools through the Building Schools for the Future programme; how much has been spent dealing with asbestos during such refurbishments; and if he will make a statement. [301092]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 129 schools where work under Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is complete, 30 have included refurbishment. In a further 21, the work was confined to ICT renewal. Asbestos surveys may or may not have been required, depending on the age of the buildings. The total capital funding provided for these schools under BSF is £429 million, including £66 million for ICT. Information on the number of refurbished schools that contained asbestos or the amounts spent on asbestos removal is not held centrally. Overall the BSF programme is expected to comprise approximately 35 per cent. major refurbishment, 15 per cent. minor refurbishment and 50 per cent. new build in terms of floor area. Major refurbishments carried out under the Building Schools for the Future programme normally include removal of all asbestos in areas likely to be disturbed by the work. Asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) that are likely to deteriorate are identified by an asbestos survey for each refurbishment and normally removed.

Asbestos is also removed when buildings are demolished. For minor refurbishment work, an asbestos survey is done and ACMs are either removed or managed in place, depending on their condition.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [301419]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There have been no first-class flights purchased for Ministers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2008-09.

Ministers' tickets have been upgraded by airlines on four occasions in 2008-09 at no cost to the Department.

Right hon. Ed Balls MP

New York to Heathrow

Right hon. Jim Knight MP

Heathrow to Singapore

Dubai to Heathrow

Heathrow to Beijing

Education: Assessments

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what qualifications are required to become an examiner for *(a)* A levels and *(b)* GCSEs. [300713]

Mr. Coaker: Examiners for GCSEs and A levels (GCEs) are employed by the awarding bodies, which award the qualifications and are regulated by Ofqual. Ofqual does not specify the qualifications required in order to become an examiner. The regulators' 'GCSE, GCE and AEA Code of Practice' (April 2009) sets out the responsibilities that awarding bodies must follow to ensure the standardisation of marking, including that "examiners should have relevant experience in the subject area".

Family Courts: Guardians

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 945W, on family courts: guardians, how many cases the Children and Family Care Advisory and Support Services has allocated to self employment guardians in each area in each of the last six months. [300570]

Dawn Primarolo: The allocation of cases to self employed guardians is a matter for CAFCASS which has supplied the following data[1]:

Trend of allocations to SEC guardians for the last six months

	Cases allocated between 1 May to 31 October 2009						
Area	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Total*
N1 (North and South Tyne)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
N2 (Durham and Teesside)	3	4	1	0	0	0	8
N3 (Lancashire and Cumbria)	4	3	2	31	0	1	41
N5 (West Yorkshire)	5	2	0	1	0	0	8
N6 (South Yorkshire)	7	0	1	0	0	0	8
N7 (Greater Manchester)	1	0	0	0	0	13	14
C2 (Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire)	1	5	12	2	3	1	24
C3 (Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire)	5	1	0	0	0	1	7
C4 (Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
C5 (Birmingham, Black Country, Solihull)	11	6	4	0	0	1	22
C6 (Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex)	14	15	11	4	4	5	53
C7 (Cheshire and Merseyside)	0	1	3	1	0	0	5
S1 (Avon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire)	3	0	1	0	1	0	5
S2 (Thames Valley)	19	10	7	13	4	6	59
S3 (Greater London)	47	52	49	41	46	65	300
S4 (Kent)	16	15	11	9	14	7	72
S5 (Sussex and Surrey)	20	13	13	14	25	10	95
S6 (Hampshire, Dorset, Isle of Wight)	4	8	8	14	8	0	42
S7 (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset)	6	10	7	2	6	13	44
Total	167	145	131	132	111	123	809

This data relates to self employed contractors employed in care cases (section 31 cases). C1 (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire) and N4 (North and East Yorkshire and Humberside) have not allocated any new care cases to self employed contractors in the period covered in the table.

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[1] This data is from the CAFCASS national Case Management System (CMS). The unit of measurement is cases, which can involve multiple application types and multiple reports for a family with multiple children.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the caseloads of guardians employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [301806]

Dawn Primarolo: The allocation and management of guardians' caseloads is a matter for CAFCASS. The Secretary of State has received approximately 20 representations on CAFCASS performance in the last six months. A minority of these refer to the caseloads of guardians employed by CAFCASS.

Family Intervention Projects

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of families who have been subject to support from family interventions projects; what funding his Department has committed to provide to family intervention projects in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how such funding is to be allocated between local authorities. [300243]

Dawn Primarolo: Data published in November 2009 shows that 2,225 families have received support from a Family Intervention project as at 31 March 2009.

The Government allocated £35.5 million for the projects in 2009-10 and are planning to allocate £57 million Government funding in 2010-11. In addition there is anticipated match funding of £9.5 million from Registered Social Landlords, Housing Associations and Youth Offending Teams. Funding has been allocated to local authorities using a range of criteria including levels of antisocial behaviour, youth crime, deprivation, poverty and number of children.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of modular GCSE courses on the level of examination grades awarded; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Coaker: There is nothing in the regulatory criteria governing GCSEs that requires GCSEs to be modular: it is for awarding bodies to decide whether to develop qualifications in this way.

It is for Ofqual as the independent regulator to ensure that the standard of GCSEs is maintained year on year. They are engaged in work with awarding bodies to make sure that this is the case where the awarding body has chosen a modular approach.

National Curriculum Tests: Contracts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the Key Stage 2 test contract for 2010; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of this contract. [300701]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State has approved the QCDA's choice of Edexcel as the test operations contractor to deliver key stage 2 national curriculum tests in 2010. Edexcel has a strong track record in delivery of tests and exams and successfully delivered key stage 2 results to schools and pupils this year. The value of the contract for the 2010 tests is £23 million.

Primary Education: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on proposed primary school closures in West Lancashire. [301416]

Mr. Coaker: None. School place planning is the statutory responsibility of individual local authorities (LAs). This includes making sure there are sufficient school places, and also removing surplus places when required. To facilitate this LAs have the power to propose the closure of maintained schools.

Where LAs propose to make any changes to local school provision, including closures, they must follow a statutory process, which is then decided under established local decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct role in the process.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he has plans to extend the operation of the Sure Start programme in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire; [301418]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the Sure Start programme in Chorley since the introduction of that programme. [301476]

Dawn Primarolo: Lancashire currently has 73 designated Sure Start Children's Centres offering access to services to approximately 48,800 children under five and their families. Of these centres, six are in the Chorley constituency, with a combined reach of approximately 4,000 children under five and their families. Lancashire is planning a further six centres to be delivered by 2010, with two of these in Chorley.

The Department allocates capital and revenue funding for children's centres and their predecessor Sure Start Local programmes to local authorities. It is for local authorities to decide how to allocate funding between individual centres. The following table contains details of the Sure Start Children's Centre expenditure (both revenue and capital) for Lancashire for the years since the inception of the Sure Start programme.

Lancashire Sure Start Children's Centre funding (Capital and Revenue) programme allocation table

Capital and revenue allocations	*Children's Centre expenditure/ Lancashire*
2003-04	21,000
2004-05	100,000
2005-06	7,150,000
2006-07	12,559,000
2007-08	14,323,000
2008-09	13,125,000

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of the outcomes of the Sure Start programme; and if he will make a statement. [301477]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman).

Teachers: Training

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what timetable has been set for the review by the Training and Development Agency for Schools of the qualified teacher status standards. [301431]

Mr. Coaker: Beginning a review of the standards for qualified teacher status has been agreed as one of the operational priorities for the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) for 2010-11. We are currently discussing the TDA's remit for next year, including the detailed timetable for the standards review.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made an assessment of the merits of collecting more detailed information on pregnancies involving one or more underage parents. [300273]

Dawn Primarolo: The conception data supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are derived by combining birth registration data and abortion notifications. It includes the number of conceptions, the rate of conceptions per 1,000 females and the proportion of conceptions that result in an abortion.

For the purposes of measuring progress against the Government's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the under-18 conception rate is used. This is expressed as a rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17. Using rates rather than numbers takes account of changes in the 15-17 female population size and therefore provides a more accurate picture of the proportion of the under-18 population that became pregnant in a given year.

Conception data can be disaggregated to ward level, allowing local areas to target their local strategies in high-rate neighbourhoods. Ward-level data are combined over three years, to comply with ONS's confidentiality rules which do not permit abortion numbers of less than 10 to be published, in order to protect patient confidentiality.

We do not have any plans to change these data collection arrangements.

Between 1998 (the baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy) and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available), the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 10.7 per cent; within the overall decline in under-18 conceptions, teenage births have fallen by 23.3 per cent. to their lowest level for over 15 years.

Truancy: Fines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have been fined as a result of their children not attending school in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* the South East in each of the last five years. [301201]

Mr. Coaker: The Department collects data at local authority level on the number of penalty notices issued to parents for their child's unauthorised absence from school. Information is not available at constituency level. These data have been collected since 1 September 2004 and the latest data available relate to the period to 31 August 2008. For each of these four years, the data for Sussex and the south-east are:

	Number	
	South-east	*Sussex*
1 September 2004 to 31 August 2005	117	19
1 September 2005 to 1 September 2006	782	150
2 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	1,973	226
1 September 2007 to 3 August 2008	2,429	170

Full penalty notice data can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/13800/Data%20of%20PNs%20PCs%20Cumlative%20Sep04-Aug08.pdf

United Church Schools Trust

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has funded sponsorship funds operated by United Church Schools Trust. [301251]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not provide any funding to United Church Schools Trust (UCST). United Learning Trust (ULT) is a subsidiary charity of UCST and sponsors 17 academies. The Department does not provide any funding to sponsors but to the not-for-profit charitable companies they establish to set up and run the academies. Sponsors, including ULT also provide funding to these charitable companies.

TREASURY

EU Budget

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's projections are for the level of the UK's *(a)* contributions to and *(b)* receipts from the EU budget in each calendar year from 2009 to 2013 inclusive, in pounds sterling, (i) before and (ii) after abatement. [300979]

Ian Pearson: Table 3.2 of the European Community Finances White Paper of July 2009 (Cm 7640) gives the latest projections for the UK's contributions to and receipts from the EC budget, including the value of our abatement, up to the financial year 2010-11. In line with all other public expenditure estimates, the Treasury does not currently publish forecasts beyond 2010-11. As usual, these figures will, where necessary, be updated in the forthcoming pre-Budget report.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast his Department has made of UK *(a)* contributions to and *(b)* receipts from the EU budget in pounds sterling for each calendar year from 2014 to 2020 inclusive (i) before and (ii) after abatement. [301009]

Ian Pearson: In line with all other public expenditure estimates, the Treasury does not currently publish forecasts beyond 2010-11.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department's officials have had with *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* EU institutions on the EU Financial Framework 2014-20. [301010]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury representatives have discussions with EU counterparts on a variety of issues on a regular basis. Formal negotiations on the next Financial Framework have not yet started.

European Investment Bank

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to help UK businesses apply for European Investment Bank funds. [300364]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to helping UK businesses access European investment Bank (EIB) funding, whether direct loans for large projects and businesses or intermediated loans for small businesses and projects.

In particular, over the last 12 months the Government have:

> Announced that UK small businesses stand to benefit from up to £4 billion of lending from the EIB between 2008 and 2011 through intermediating banks.
>
> Called for the EIB to double its financial support for research and development programmes in the automotive sector, by making available €8 billion over 2009 and 2010 through the European Clean Transport Facility.
>
> Announced that UK renewable and energy projects stand to benefit from up to £4 billion of new capital from the EIB, including a specific £700 million intermediated lending scheme for small and medium sized renewable energy projects.

However, while the Government can play a facilitating role, businesses must apply directly to the EIB (or UK banks in the case of intermediated lending) and applications are assessed according to the EIB's (or the relevant UK banks') own internal appraisal processes.

Israel: EU External Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has had contact with its Dutch counterpart in relation to its investigation into whether Ahava products originate in whole or in part from the Palestinian Occupied Territories. [300307]

Mr. Timms: There has been no contact.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of Ahava products was imported to the UK in the last 12 months; and what proportion of such imports was eligible for the trading preference under the EU-Israel Trade Agreement. [300308]

Mr. Timms: Commercial confidentiality makes it inappropriate to provide this information for an individual supplier.

Non-Domestic Rates: Parking

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine the rateable value of reserved parking spaces. [301567]

Ian Pearson: The methodology is set out in rating manual volume 5 section 200 for car parks and in the individual practice note issued for each five yearly revaluation. These can be viewed on the Valuation Office Agency's website:

www.voa.gov.uk

Research: Finance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to increase research and development expenditure; what assessment he has made of the effect of research and development tax credits on research and development expenditure in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300753]

Ian Pearson: Specific tax relief was introduced in 2000 for spending on research and development by companies which are small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Relief was extended to larger companies in 2002. Between 2003-04 and 2006-07 the amount of R and D expenditure supported increased by 10 per cent. a year, from £5.7 billion in 2003-04 to £7.6 billion in 2006-07, the latest year for which data are available. Since the introduction of the schemes, there have been over 36,000 claims for R and D tax relief, with over £3 billion of support claimed by innovative companies in the UK, supporting £32 billion of R and D expenditure in total.

Tax Allowances: Professional Organisations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the tax revenues likely to be raised as a consequence of ending the charitable status and tax exemptions for which the professional accountancy bodies operating as recognised supervisory bodies under the Companies Act 2006 are eligible. [301503]

Ian Pearson: No estimates have been made. The professional accountancy bodies that are currently registered in the UK as recognised supervisory bodies do not have charitable status and thus do not qualify for charity-related tax exemptions.

HEALTH

Health Warnings: Super-Strength Lager

16. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to introduce health warnings on cans of super-strength lager. [300154]

Gillian Merron: We are working with industry to include units, drinking guidelines and pregnancy warnings on labels.

Where progress on industry's voluntary commitments is slow, we can expect to legislate.

Dementia: In-patients

17. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the standard of hospital care received by in-patients with dementia. [300155]

Phil Hope: The Alzheimer's Society report on the quality of dementia care in hospitals is a timely reminder of the need for improvement of hospital care for people with dementia. The national dementia strategy recognises the need to transform hospital services for people with dementia and deliver a skilled and effective workforce in hospitals.

Hospital-Acquired Infections

18. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of steps taken against hospital-acquired infections. [300156]

Ann Keen: The national health service is continuing to deliver sustained reductions in Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections and *C. difficile* infections. However, one preventable infection is one too many and we must do all we can to keep driving down all infections.

Community Hospitals

19. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his policy on the provision of local community hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [300157]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The transforming community services programme is supporting primary care trusts (PCTs) to make local decisions about how they provide community services. We published guidance in January 2009 asking PCTs to assess their community estates in the light of their commissioning intentions, and produce estate strategies by April 2010.

NHS Dentistry

20. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the number of patients who have access to an NHS dentist. [300158]

Ann Keen: We have invested a record £2 billion in dentistry and set up a national access programme to help the NHS deliver its goal of access for all who seek it by 2011. We therefore expect access to continue to increase.

The latest data shows that access has grown for the fourth quarter running, with 721,000 more patients accessing NHS services in the 24 months ending June 2009 than compared to the 24 months ending June 2008. The next quarterly statistics will be published on 26 November.

Social Care Reform

21. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the reform of social care. [300159]

Phil Hope: The Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together' set out a vision for a national care service that is fairer, simpler and more affordable—ensuring people get really good care wherever they live, and whatever they or their family needs. Following our extensive consultation which closed on 13 November, we will publish a White Paper in the new year.

Care Provision

22. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to change the arrangements for the provision of care for the elderly and the disabled. [300160]

Phil Hope: Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will mean that older people and younger disabled adults will be better helped to live independently for longer in their own homes—something they tell us they want.

This is a major step towards the setting up of a national care service.

Organ Donation Education

23. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the number of schools which have made use of the NHS Blood and Transplant Service's Give and Let Live organ donation education programme. [300161]

Ann Keen: 'Give and Let Live' is a free educational resource that helps young people decide if they want to give blood, donate bone marrow or join the NHS organ donor register.

The programme is available to all United Kingdom state and independent secondary schools.

The Secretary of State has many discussions with his Cabinet colleagues covering a variety of subjects and areas.

Moreover, departmental officials are in regular contact with their colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on all aspects of promoting to young people the importance of being a donor.

Incinerators

24. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned any recent research on the effects of the operation of incinerators on the health of local residents. [300162]

Gillian Merron: The Department is neither commissioning nor conducting any research in this area currently.

The Health Protection Agency has recently reviewed the latest research on the health effects of modern municipal waste incinerators. They concluded that, while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects completely, any potential damage from modern, well-run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable.

Tuberculosis

25. **Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent consideration he has given to the establishment of a national programme for the co-ordination of services to prevent and control tuberculosis. [300163]

Gillian Merron: The responsibility for provision of tuberculosis (TB) control services rests with local commissioners. In 2004, the Department published a TB Action Plan for NHS professionals, managers and commissioners, which is aimed at improving early TB detection and completion of treatment. In 2007, the Department launched a TB Toolkit for commissioners to secure the best TB services to meet local needs.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of repeat abortions undertaken in relation to females aged *(a)* 11, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 13, *(d)* 14, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 16, *(g)* 17, *(h)* 18, *(i)* 19, *(j)* 20, *(k)* 21, *(l)* 22, *(m)* 23, *(n)* 24, *(o)* between 25 and 29, *(p)* between 30 and 34 and *(q)* 35 years and over in each primary care trust area in each year since 2000. [300861]

Gillian Merron: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ambulance Services: Hornsey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the data held by his Department on the time taken for people in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency to get to hospital under blue light conditions in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [300534]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

The Department does not require ambulance trusts to submit data on times from collecting a patient to arriving at premises providing national health service health care. The data that the Department does collect on ambulance response times is published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, Ambulance services, England.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the average *(a)* target and *(b)* actual ambulance response time to 999 calls in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [300288]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department no longer classifies ambulance trusts as urban or rural, and therefore performance data is no longer reported against these categories.

All ambulance trusts are required to meet the same national response time standards irrespective of location. Category A calls (those presenting conditions that may be immediately life threatening) should be responded to within eight minutes in 75 per cent. of cases and Category B calls (those conditions that are serious but not immediately life threatening) should be responded to within 19 minutes in 95 per cent. of cases.

Arthritis

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts *(a)* provided information on inflammatory arthritis to GPs in the last 12 months and *(b)* plan to provide such information in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [301115]

Ann Keen: Information on how many primary care trusts provide information on rheumatoid arthritis to general practitioners (GPs) is not recorded centrally.

Information on inflammatory arthritis is available to health professionals, including GPs, through national health service evidence and Map of Medicine.

The Department has also published a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis which supports clinicians in identifying cases of rheumatoid arthritis and ensuring that they are set on the right pathway of care. This describes key symptoms, for example where patients should be referred for urgent treatment.

Cancer: Mentally Ill

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer specialists have received training on the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [301414]

Phil Hope: As part of the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA), the Department made funding available to the health and social care economy for training purposes. In addition, the Department funded a range of training materials and booklets on the MCA. These included materials to be used by trainers in face to face training, e-learning materials and the booklets in the Making Decisions series.

All were made available to the national health service. In addition, the Department encouraged primary care trusts (PCTs) to use the resources they received for implementation to fund a MCA co-ordinator. Many have done so and MCA co-ordinators have been active in developing local training plans and commissioning and arranging training.

The number of cancer specialists who have made use of the training is not held centrally; arranging training is a local issue. Training opportunities continue and we know that cancer specialists have been making referrals to Independent Mental Capacity Advocates, which is an indication they are aware of the MCA.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ensure that facilities to monitor blood carbon monoxide levels through breath analysis are available in every general practitioner's surgery; [301365]

(2) what proportion of NHS patients recorded as tired all the time are monitored for carbon monoxide poisoning. [301370]

Gillian Merron: This information is not recorded. Tiredness is a possible symptom of a range of medical conditions.

Monitoring of carbon monoxide levels by breath analysis is often available in general practitioner's (GPs) surgeries for use in smoking cessation clinics. Where they are not available in GP surgeries, they are available in the many community locations served by the NHS Local Stop Smoking Service.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has evaluated on the causes of myalgic encephalomyelitis. [301252]

Ann Keen: None.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) continues to be a strategic priority area for funding and the MRC remains committed to supporting scientific research into all aspects of CFS/ME including evaluations of treatments and studies into the biological basis of the condition.

In 2008 a new Expert Group was set up by the MRC to consider how best to encourage new high-quality research into CFS/ME and to bring researchers from associated areas into the field. The Expert Group has met twice, in December 2008 and March 2009.

In addition, the MRC recently held a CFS/ME workshop and a note of the discussions will be published on the MRC website in due course.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Medical Research Council and National Institute for Health Research (Department of Health) spent on dementia research in 2008-09. [300340]

Gillian Merron: Combined Medical Research Council and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) expenditure on dementia research in 2008-09 amounted to some £29.9 million. The NIHR component includes the cost of the dementia and neurodegenerative diseases research network.

Health: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when all patients with a summary care record will be offered HealthSpace; and how many people have registered each year since December 2003 in the early adopter areas. [300336]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Any person aged 16 or over may choose to open a HealthSpace account. It is not necessary for patients to have a summary care record to take advantage of HealthSpace. Information on the take-up to date of HealthSpace accounts is not held in the form requested. As at 17 November 2009, altogether there were some 99,800 HealthSpace accounts.

Hip Replacements: Research

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the risk of a hip replacement being required for those who have a history of jogging on concrete or other hard surfaces; and if he will make a statement. [300574]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not commissioned any specific research or risk assessment into jogging on hard surfaces, although the chief medical officer's report "At least five a week: evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health" includes a discussion of the effects of physical activity on osteoarthritis. The report has already been placed in the Library.

Hospital Beds: Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of hospital beds available within the region served by the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust whilst Bridlington Hospital is being refurbished. [300571]

Ann Keen: This is a matter for the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT). It is the responsibility of the PCT to plan, develop and improve services according to the health care needs of its local population. This includes the appropriate provision of hospital beds to meet anticipated demand.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Publications

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust has spent on the provision of newsletters in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [300469]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. This information can be obtained from the Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust direct.

Learning Disability: Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women with a learning disability waited over 18 weeks after diagnosis of cancer to treatment in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [301412]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The NHS Cancer Plan (2000) committed that no patient diagnosed with cancer should wait longer than 31 days between diagnosis and first definitive treatment for cancer. The 31-day cancer waiting time standard was introduced for all cancer patients from December

2005. Data to monitor national health service performance against this standard are published quarterly on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/HospitalWaitingTimesandListStatistics/CancerWaitingTimes/index.htm

The number of patients with learning difficulties are not identified within this data collection.

Learning Disability: Prostate Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the prostate cancer screening programme is accessible for men with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [301415]

Ann Keen: There is currently no national screening programme for prostate cancer. However, in March 2009, we announced that the UK National Screening Committee will review new evidence surrounding screening for prostate cancer. The Committee is due to report back to Ministers during 2010.

In 2002, as part of the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP), a pack of materials was produced for use in primary care to help men make an informed choice about having a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test. If a man wants a PSA test after consultation with his general practitioner (GP) and consideration of the information leaflet included for men, he may have one free on the national health service.

The PCRMP packs have been formally evaluated and revised packs were issued to GPs in August 2009. The PCRMP Scientific Reference Group discussed whether separate materials should be produced for men with a learning disability. They concluded that as the programme was aimed at men with no symptoms of prostate cancer, was not a population screening programme, and the patient leaflet was an aide memoire following a consultation with a primary care practitioner, it would not be appropriate to produce such materials. The primary care team should use their best clinical judgment in explaining the materials for men with a learning disability who are aware of the programme or whose carers are aware of the programme, especially if the individual is at a higher risk of prostate cancer if, for example, his brother has had prostate cancer.

Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated for mental illness on the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [300410]

Phil Hope: This information is not available. Most treatment for mental health problems occurs in primary care settings, where information on the number of patients treated for specific conditions is not collected.

Approximately one in six adults in England has a common mental illness, like anxiety or mild depression at any given time, with one in four adults experiencing mental ill health at some stage in their lives. Approximately one in 100 people are thought to have a severe mental illness like schizophrenia or psychosis.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Primary Care Trusts

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of primary care trust funding levels for treatment of musculoskeletal conditions in 2008-09. [301116]

Ann Keen: No specific assessment of primary care trust (PCT) funding levels for treatment of musculoskeletal conditions has been made.

All primary care trusts have undertaken a comprehensive needs assessment as part of developing their strategic plans.

As long as PCTs meet national standards and guidance, the local national health service is free to make decisions on spending priorities based on the character and needs of their local population. Local NHS organisations are answerable to their local populations for the decisions that they make.

NHS: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* current, *(b)* retired and *(c)* deferred members of the NHS pension scheme (i) were members prior to 1 April 2008 and (ii) have joined the scheme since 1 April 2008. [300686]

Ann Keen: As at 31 March 2008 there were 1,336,576 active members, 411,458 deferred members and 583,705 retired members of the NHS Pension Scheme.

In the year from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, there were a total of 155,100 new entrants to the Scheme. These comprised new members, deferred members who rejoined and members who transferred in from other pension schemes. Retired members of the 1995 section of the scheme are unable to rejoin after retirement. It is not possible to give a breakdown of the joiners into new members, deferred members who rejoined and transfers in.

Source:

NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for Premature Retirement Scheme Resource Accounts 2007-08 and 2008-09 in.

Patients: Transport

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of volunteers using their own vehicle to transport patients on behalf of the NHS and *(b)* the mileage covered by these volunteers in the latest period for which figures are available; [300472]

(2) how many volunteers who used their own vehicle to transport patients on behalf of the NHS were reimbursed in 2008; and what his most recent estimate is of the equivalent figure in 2009 to date. [300473]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No assessment has been made by the Department of the use of voluntary drivers. Any assessment of voluntary car schemes would be for the local national health service to make.

We are aware of the huge contribution that volunteer drivers make to health and well being by offering transport free of charge to many vulnerable and potentially isolated patients and service users. The Department is currently working to develop a strategic vision for volunteering in health and social care which will acknowledge this contribution and highlight the importance of volunteer expenses being reimbursed.

Pharmacy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to lay the draft Pharmacy Order before Parliament. [300319]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The draft Pharmacy Order 2010 was laid in both the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments on 11 November 2009.

Sickle Cell Disease: Pain

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence plans to issue clinical guidelines for the management of pain in sickle cell disease. [301081]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have not asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop guidance on the management of pain in sickle cell disease. A proposal for a short clinical guideline relating to the management of sickle cell crises in hospital is currently being considered through NICE's topic selection process.

Social Services: Sight Impairment

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of blind or partially-sighted people have received a visit from social services in each of the last five years; [300764]

(2) what percentage of blind or partially-sighted people have been offered formal counselling to help deal with the trauma of sight loss in each of the last five years; [300765]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of support for blind and partially-sighted people. [300766]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care does not collect the data requested.

However, councils with social services responsibilities are responsible for the organisation of services in its area. Progress in Sight National Standard of Social Care for Visually Impaired Adults provides a framework against which councils can benchmark their existing services and able them to focus more clearly on what they need to do in order to reach the required standard.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people working in *(a)* pubs, *(b)* bars and *(c)* nightclubs have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to underage persons in each of the last five years; [300350]

(2) how many *(a)* shop and *(b)* supermarket workers have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to underage persons in each of the last five years. [300351]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* Data showing the number of males, females and other defendants proceeded against for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in Table 1.

Establishments are included as other defendants, it is not possible to differentiate between sales on and off premises in the court proceedings database.

Table 2 shows the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18" by gender from 2004 to 2007 (latest available).

Statistics for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3,4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	Male	1	—	7	2	—
	Female	—	—	7	3	1
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	—	14	5	1
Bedfordshire	Male	1	5	10	23	2
	Female	1	2	—	1	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	7	10	24	2
Cambridgeshire	Male	—	3	6	16	8
	Female	—	1	3	11	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	4	9	27	10
Cheshire	Male	8	14	4	6	6
	Female	7	6	4	—	—
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total	16	20	8	6	6
Cleveland	Male	1	6	11	8	8
	Female	1	4	3	3	5
	Other defendant	2	—	—	—	—
	Total	4	10	14	11	13
Cumbria	Male	1	1	2	1	1
	Female	—	—	6	—	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1	1	8	1	1
Derbyshire	Male	27	18	9	7	6
	Female	10	4	4	1	1
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	37	22	13	8	7
Devon and Cornwall	Male	—	7	5	4	3
	Female	—	5	3	2	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	12	8	6	5
Dorset	Male	7	6	30	6	2
	Female	2	4	5	1	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	9	10	35	7	2
Durham	Male	—	2	2	—	1
	Female	—	—	—	—	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	2	2	—	3
Essex	Male	4	1	8	14	12
	Female	3	1	—	2	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	7	2	8	16	14
Gloucestershire	Male	—	1	4	9	3
	Female	—	—	1	1	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	1	5	10	3
Greater Manchester	Male	85	124	81	111	30
	Female	40	55	36	48	5
	Other defendant	4	1	—	1	—
	Total	129	180	117	160	35
Hampshire	Male	—	6	7	2	4
	Female	—	3	4	—	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	9	11	2	4
Hertfordshire	Male	1	7	3	40	21
	Female	—	1	—	—	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	1

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3,4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total	1	8	3	40	24
Humberside	Male	—	3	2	3	2
	Female	—	8	—	3	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	11	2	6	5
Kent	Male	9	10	13	2	2
	Female	3	3	1	—	—
	Other defendant	—	2	—	—	—
	Total	12	15	14	2	2
Lancashire	Male	15	14	49	22	24
	Female	8	8	40	10	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	23	22	89	32	27
Leicestershire	Male	9	9	21	35	40
	Female	6	—	6	10	15
	Other defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	15	10	27	45	55
Lincolnshire	Male	9	3	7	5	2
	Female	8	1	4	5	1
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	17	4	11	10	3
Merseyside	Male	25	13	12	12	21
	Female	16	6	4	22	7
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	42	19	16	34	28
Metropolitan Police	Male	84	133	223	197	136
	Female	13	22	28	24	18
	Other defendant	16	12	2	15	22
	Total	113	167	253	236	176
Norfolk	Male	1	6	—	—	1
	Female	—	3	3	—	1
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1	9	3	—	2
North Yorkshire	Male	3	16	2	25	16
	Female	4	6	1	16	13
	Other defendant	—	—	—	27	—
	Total	7	22	3	68	29
Northamptonshire	Male	—	—	7	11	7
	Female	—	—	4	2	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	—	11	13	7
Northumbria	Male	31	36	65	30	8
	Female	7	14	14	10	4
	Other defendant	—	1	—	1	—

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3,4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total	38	51	79	41	12
Nottinghamshire	Male	5	—	6	26	3
	Female	4	—	5	11	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	9	—	11	37	5
South Yorkshire	Male	—	4	11	8	4
	Female	—	1	7	2	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	2
	Total	—	5	18	10	9
Staffordshire	Male	3	5	14	13	16
	Female	5	—	6	10	10
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	8	5	20	23	26
Suffolk	Male	—	1	1	2	—
	Female	—	—	2	2	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	1	3	4	—
Surrey	Male	4	9	12	17	3
	Female	—	1	1	1	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	4	10	13	18	5
Sussex	Male	7	3	2	23	8
	Female	1	1	2	9	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	1	—
	Total	8	4	4	33	11
Thames Valley	Male	2	19	6	28	14
	Female	4	8	9	8	6
	Other defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	6	28	15	36	20
Warwickshire	Male	19	17	5	2	1
	Female	7	9	2	—	—
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	27	26	7	2	1
West Mercia	Male	7	3	17	10	5
	Female	—	1	2	—	—
	Other defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	7	5	19	10	5
West Midlands	Male	20	34	53	55	40
	Female	—	11	22	18	16
	Other defendant	—	—	1	1	1
	Total	20	45	76	74	57
West Yorkshire	Male	1	17	9	14	8
	Female	—	4	6	3	1

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3,4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	21	15	17	9
Wiltshire	Male	4	5	16	9	5
	Female	1	3	7	1	1
	Other defendant	1	2	—	—	—
	Total	6	10	23	10	6
Dyfed-Powys	Male	5	15	4	12	6
	Female	—	9	2	4	4
	Other defendant	—	—	—	2	3
	Total	5	24	6	18	13
Gwent	Male	—	8	13	14	8
	Female	2	12	3	6	5
	Other defendant	—	—	—	1	—
	Total	2	20	16	21	13
North Wales	Male	4	3	8	3	6
	Female	3	2	2	1	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	7	5	10	4	8
South Wales	Male	24	27	40	56	22
	Female	5	6	15	15	4
	Other defendant	—	1	—	1	3
	Total	29	34	55	72	29
England and Wales	Male	427	614	807	883	515
	Female	161	225	274	266	146
	Other defendant	28	22	3	50	32
	Total	616	861	1,084	1,199	693

[1] Other defendants include companies and public bodies etc.

[2] Includes the following offences:

(a) Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.

(b) Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

(c) Sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(d) Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(e) Persistently selling alcohol to children.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and compl[illegible]ever, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police force. As [illegible]are should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Ref: IOS 043-09

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	Male	—	29	25	33
	Female	—	27	29	27
	Total	—	56	54	60
Bedfordshire	Male	—	1	6	10
	Female	—	1	7	3
	Total	—	2	13	13
Cambridgeshire	Male	—	8	14	16

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	Sex	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Female	—	3	15	6
	Total	—	11	29	22
Cheshire	Male	—	21	19	19
	Female	—	20	31	7
	Total	—	40	50	26
Cleveland	Male	—	10	10	27
	Female	—	23	13	38
	Total	—	33	23	65
Cumbria	Male	—	10	11	13
	Female	—	13	10	27
	Total	—	23	21	40
Derbyshire	Male	—	5	16	50
	Female	—	3	14	51
	Total	—	8	30	101
Devon and Cornwall	Male	—	32	54	31
	Female	—	50	61	38
	Total	—	82	115	69
Dorset	Male	13	3	9	20
	Female	9	19	20	15
	Total	22	22	29	35
Durham	Male	—	—	1	12
	Female	—	—	—	13
	Total	—	—	1	25
Essex	Male	1	60	42	53
	Female	6	60	52	58
	Total	7	120	94	111
Gloucestershire	Male	—	17	28	44
	Female	—	25	26	42
	Total	—	42	54	86
Greater Manchester	Male	—	60	122	98
	Female	—	67	89	43
	Total	—	127	211	141
Hampshire	Male	1	31	57	114
	Female	1	36	52	91
	Total	2	67	109	205
Hertfordshire	Male	—	2	30	46
	Female	—	1	11	21
	Total	—	3	41	67
Humberside	Male	1	13	22	46
	Female	1	32	26	52
	Total	2	45	48	98

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007[2], broken-down by police force area

Force	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Kent	Male	—	8	3	16
	Female	—	2	2	7
	Total	—	10	5	23
Lancashire	Male	17	95	105	100
	Female	13	95	101	90
	Total	30	190	206	190
Leicestershire	Male	2	22	26	69
	Female	—	24	33	61
	Total	2	46	59	130
Lincolnshire	Male	—	10	21	15
	Female	—	16	36	39
	Total	—	26	57	54
Merseyside	Male	2	44	56	72
	Female	—	29	71	103
	Total	2	73	127	175
Metropolitan Police	Male	12	113	190	264
	Female	9	48	62	77
	Total	21	161	252	341
Norfolk	Male	—	—	5	17
	Female	—	—	5	19
	Total	—	—	10	36
Northamptonshire	Male	1	15	18	15
	Female	—	24	16	7
	Total	1	39	34	22
Northumbria	Male	1	20	47	44
	Female	—	28	37	23
	Total	1	48	84	67
North Yorkshire	Male	—	—	4	8
	Female	—	—	7	17
	Total	—	—	11	25
Nottinghamshire	Male	3	54	125	81
	Female	6	63	140	87
	Total	9	117	265	168
South Yorkshire	Male	1	47	76	69
	Female	1	60	82	90
	Total	2	107	158	159
Staffordshire	Male	—	6	34	32
	Female	—	13	41	35
	Total	—	19	75	67
Suffolk	Male	—	11	14	7
	Female	—	8	7	13

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	Sex	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Total	—	19	21	20
Surrey	Male	—	—	22	57
	Female	—	—	12	15
	Total	—	—	34	72
Sussex	Male	—	29	116	63
	Female	—	34	100	56
	Total	—	63	216	119
Thames Valley	Male	—	6	59	80
	Female	—	6	36	51
	Total	—	12	95	131
Warwickshire	Male	—	3	5	24
	Female	—	—	4	13
	Total	—	3	9	37
West Mercia	Male	1	6	33	56
	Female	—	16	25	20
	Total	1	22	58	76
West Midlands	Male	2	69	83	90
	Female	4	47	60	47
	Total	6	116	143	137
West Yorkshire	Male	6	32	66	97
	Female	—	40	41	64
	Total	6	72	107	161
Wiltshire	Male	—	5	6	17
	Female	—	3	4	9
	Total	—	8	10	26
Dyfed-Powys	Male	—	6	5	9
	Female	—	12	4	11
	Total	—	18	9	20
Gwent	Male	—	9	27	57
	Female	—	11	23	16
	Total	—	20	50	73
North Wales	Male	1	20	20	29
	Female	—	38	43	36
	Total	1	58	63	65
South Wales	Male	—	70	67	28
	Female	—	53	50	25
	Total	—	123	117	53
England and Wales	Male	62	1,006	1,603	2,006
	Female	51	1,052	1,500	1,577
	Total	113	2,058	3,103	3,583

[1] This PND offence was added to the scheme on 1 November 2004.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years have been arrested for alcohol-related acts of disorder or violence in each of the last five years. [illegible]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. It is not possible to identify the number of arrests made for alcohol related acts of disorder or violence from the data on arrests reported to the Home Office.

Closed Circuit Television: Regulation

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consideration he has given to the establishment of a TV Regulator in respect of the use of closed circuit television to monitor public space; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* A review of the recommendations of the National CCTV Strategy, including those concerning the regulatory framework, is currently under way. We recognise the important role that CCTV plays in preventing and detecting crime and in raising public confidence. We will announce the outcome of the review to the House.

Crime: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of each type were committed by young people aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* between 16 and 18 years in the Milton Keynes local authority area in each of the last five years. [illegible]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office it is not possible to identify the age of the alleged offender.

DNA: Databases

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in S. and Marper v. the United Kingdom has been implemented in relation to the functions of the UK Border Agency. [illegible]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is mindful of its obligation to ensure that its operations are compatible with the European Convention of Human Rights. The case of S. and Marper found that Article 8 (right to privacy) was infringed by the collection and retention of DNA from those individuals arrested but later acquitted. The Home Office conducted a public consultation exercise from May to August 2009 and the Home Secretary made a written statement announcing the Government's response to the judgement on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 25WS.

The agency has in place in the draft Immigration Bill, currently under pre-legislative scrutiny, provisions for the laying of regulations specifying retention periods. The agency is formulating a retention policy that will be both mindful of the need to protect people's privacy under Article 8 of the ECHR while at the same time ensure that immigration officers have the necessary tools and powers in which to fulfil their jobs. This policy will be subject to public consultation with various interested groups including the Information Commissioner's Office.

I should like to emphasise however that the UKBA overwhelmingly uses fingerprints, which is less intrusive, rather than DNA for the purpose of immigration control. Where DNA is used, it is done so only on a voluntary basis.

Immigration: Polygamy

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to Lord Pearson of Rannoch of 21 July 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 301-02WA, on polygamy, whether officials in his Department have now determined whether changes to the UK Border Agency's entry clearance guidance are required in the context of polygamous marriages. [300989]

Mr. Woolas: I have amended the current entry clearance guidance (SET 14.8) to read that any case where there is evidence to suspect a divorce of convenience should be referred to entry clearance support team for consideration and advice.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any documents issued by the Security Industry Authority indicate that it is permitted for a licensed clamper to place a clamp on a vehicle displaying a disabled badge. [301023]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Regulation 6 (2)(a) of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Licences) Regulations 2007, states that

> "the licensee shall not immobilise, remove or restrict a vehicle in accordance with paragraph 3 or 3A of Schedule 2 to the 2001 Act if the vehicle is an invalid carriage or if a valid disability badge is displayed on the vehicle or if the vehicle is an emergency vehicle which is in use".

This is made clear on page 19 of the Security Industry Authority's (SIA) publication, "Get Licensed". This states that,

> "when carrying out front line vehicle immobilisation duties the following conditions must be followed. A vehicle must not be clamped/blocked/towed if:
>
> a valid disabled badge is displayed on the vehicle;
>
> it is an emergency service vehicle which is in use as such."

This document is available on the SIA's website at:

http://sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/725E43BE-2163-4035-9151-6EAB15990BC1/0/sia_get_licensed.pdf

Police: Newark

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Newark constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; and how many police community support officers there were in the constituency in (i) 2002 and (ii) 2009. [301003]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency. Newark constituency is within the Nottinghamshire police force area.

There were 2,323 police officers in Nottinghamshire constabulary as at 31 March 1997 and 2,380 police officers as at 31 March 2009.

Police community support officers were not introduced until 2002-03. There were 243 police community support officers in Nottinghamshire constabulary as at 31 March 2009.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

UK Border Agency

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone calls the UK Border Agency helpline has received in the last 12 months. [300991]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has three principal UK call centres. For the period October 2008 to September 2009 they received 4,888,923 calls.

This is broken down as follows:

Call centre	*Calls received*
Sheffield	889,944
Liverpool	1,574,226
IEB	2,424,753
Total	4,888,923

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone calls the UK Border Agency helpline has received in the last 12-months. [300368]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The UK Border Agency has three principal call centres. For the period October 2008 to September 2009 they received 4,888,923 calls. This is broken down as follows:

Call centre	*Calls received*
Sheffield	889,944
Liverpool	1,574,226
IEB	2,424,753
Total	4,888,923

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what period of time the UK Border Agency helpline has been out of order in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the number of calls that were not answered as a result of such unavailability. [300369]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* For the period October 2008 to September 2009 the call centres have not had to close down due to system unavailability.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what periods the UK Border Agency helpline has been out of service in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the number of calls that were not answered as a result of such unavailability. [300980]

Mr. Woolas: For the period October 2008 to September 2009 the call centres have not had to close down due to system unavailability.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 November 2009

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from the Law Officers Departments will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300987]

The Solicitor-General: No Ministers or civil servants from the Law Officers Departments will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Fraud: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the co-ordination of arrangements for the prosecution of cases of fraud. [300756]

The Solicitor-General: England and Wales have an established network of specialist anti-fraud prosecutors. The Attorney General and I keep their effectiveness under review. Our most recent assessment, coordinated by the Serious Fraud Office and the National Fraud Authority and involving the Association of Chief Police Officers, City of London Police, Metropolitan Police Service, Serious Organised Crime Agency, Crown Prosecution Service, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, Companies Investigation Branch, Office of Fair Trading, Financial Services Authority, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, the Home Office and the Attorney General's Office, has resulted in further work, being planned to strengthen multi-agency collaboration on the detection, disruption, investigation and prosecution of fraud. Details of this work will be set out in a report on progress against the National Fraud Strategy which will be published shortly.

Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent progress has been made on national implementation of integrated prosecution teams. [300729]

The Solicitor-General: The Integrated Prosecution Team (IPT) project, which has been introduced across London, will create an integrated process that brings together pre-trial and case-build functions of the police and the CPS. The aim of the project is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of casework handling between the police and the CPS. Teams will be mostly located in police stations. IPT is functional in 16 Boroughs (50 per cent.) across London. A further five boroughs have commenced the IPT implementation process. The remaining eleven Boroughs will co-locate during the period December 2009 to July 2010. The project includes provision for a post implementation review. The outcome from this review will enable the CPS to consider whether this London initiative has wider application across England and Wales.

TRANSPORT

M18: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the reasons were for the closing off of one lane on the southbound carriageway of the M18 motorway on 24 October 2009, north and south of junction six; and what work was undertaken on that carriageway on that date. [300572]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* The closure was to carry out advance works for the M18 J6-J7 north bound carriageway resurfacing scheme. The works comprised the installation of closed circuit television systems and average speed measuring systems which will mitigate the risk to road workers during the main works. The scheme will be completed before Christmas.

M5: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the purpose is of fixed cameras on the M5 motorway. [300573]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* On the M5 motorway the Highways Agency has three types of fixed camera in use.

CCTV Cameras allow real-time traffic conditions to be monitored by the Highways Agency's National and Regional Traffic Control Centres, enabling an efficient response to be made to incidents. The cameras also feed traffic information to a variety of information and media services for drivers to plan their journeys.

Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras link to a system which converts and anonymises number plates to 'tag' codes for each passing vehicle at each camera location. The 'tag' codes are then used to calculate traffic flows and speed between camera locations in order to inform our understanding of network performance.

Average speed cameras are positioned temporarily at major roadwork sites to improve safety for road users and the workforce on the motorway. The cameras monitor vehicle speed between two points and check the average speed compliance with the speed limit.

Network Rail: Consultants

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much Network Rail has spent on consultants in each year since the company was placed in the public sector. [300498]

Chris Mole: Network Rail is a private sector not-for-dividend company limited by guarantee. The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested.

This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to her question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Ports: Liverpool

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to seek advice from the European Commission on his Department's decision on whether to approve proposals on the relaxation of restrictions on the use of the Liverpool cruise terminal. [300743]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is assessing the competition issues associated with the request to relax the restrictions.

If the conclusion is that there would be no distortion of competition, Government Office for the North West would further examine state aid implications, before seeking advice from the European Commission.

Railways: Finance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what level of Government subsidy has been available to each train operator in each of the last five years. [300497]

Chris Mole: This information is published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. Copies are available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

Road Signs and Markings: Bridges

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what proposals his Department has issued on making metric measurements mandatory on road signs warning of or imposing height restrictions; and what the *(a)* status of and *(b)* evidential basis for such proposals is; [300974]

(2) what information his Department holds on the nature of the signage in place at locations where vehicles have struck bridges; [300977]

(3) what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the adequacy of the signage in place at locations where vehicles have struck bridges; and whether any such research has been taken into account in the formulation of proposals to make metric measurements mandatory on road signs warning of or imposing height restrictions. [300978]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The Department for Transport is currently consulting on amendments to Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD) which include the mandatory use of both imperial and metric units on road signs warning of or imposing height restrictions. These signs are currently prescribed in TSRGD but the use of dual-unit signing is discretionary.

The consultation document is on the Department's website at the following address and the consultation closes on 24 December 2009:

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/
trafficsignsamendmentregs/

Evidence presented by Network Rail suggests that 10-12 per cent. of bridge strikes involved foreign lorries and this is disproportionately high. Current policy has also been informed by a 2004 TRL research report 'Measures to Reduce the Frequency of Over-Height Vehicles Striking Bridges: Final Report', which covers signing issues. The report is on the Department's website at the following address:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tss/research/
educevehiclesstrikingbridges/
measurestoreducethefrequency4172.pdf

The consultation proposals are intended to help reduce the risk of bridge strikes by foreign lorry drivers who may misunderstand imperial-only measurements.

There are no centrally-held records on the nature of traffic signs placed for all locations where vehicles have struck bridges.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport, how many speed cameras there were in Norwich, North constituency on the latest date for which information is available. [301703]

Paul Clark: Separate information about cameras operating in Norwich, North is not held. The number of camera sites operating in Norfolk at the end of the National Safety Camera Programme, which ended on 31 March 2007, was 37. Since then, the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras currently in place will therefore be a matter for Norfolk county council and the local road safety partnership.

SCOTLAND

Health Care and Housing: Armed Forces

11. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Defence the provision of healthcare and housing for members of the armed forces based in Scotland who are returning from active service overseas. [300135]

Ann McKechin: The principles underlying the provision of healthcare and housing to members of the armed forces returning from operational deployment to Scotland are no different from those for other parts of the UK. I do however have regular discussions with Defence and Scottish Ministers about armed forces personnel in Scotland.

Devolution

12. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the recommendations of the final report of the Commission on Scottish Devolution; and if he will make a statement. [300136]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have had many discussions with Cabinet colleagues during preparation of Government proposals for future of Scotland within the United Kingdom. I will make a statement shortly.

Digital Economy Bill

13. **Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the application of the provisions of the Digital Economy Bill to Scotland. [300137]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State for Scotland is in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on a variety of issues.

Small Businesses: UK Financial Investments

14. **Mr. Alan Reid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on assistance for small businesses in Scotland from banks in which UK Financial Investments is a major shareholder. [300138]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues on a range of matters. Both Lloyds and RBS reaffirmed their commitment to lend an additional £39 billion over the 12 months from March 2009.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301153]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee, "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish on-line, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301193]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I last travelled by train in the course of my official duties on 3 November 2009.

Departmental Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301177]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Immigration: Scotland

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary regarding immigration into Scotland. [301049]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State for Scotland works in partnership with the Home Office, UKBA, the Scottish Government, local authorities and third sector groups across Scotland to ensure that immigration levels are monitored appropriately. The greatest number of those who choose to move to Scotland to live and work, reside in other parts of the UK.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund *(a)* was allocated to each local authority in 2008-09 and *(b)* has been so allocated in 2009-10; whether his Department keeps a record of the purposes to which such funding is put; and what assessment he has made of the (i) past and (ii) future use of such monies in accordance with the objectives set for the fund. [301347]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In total, £3 million from the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) has been allocated to local authorities in each financial year of 2008-09 and 2009-10. The funding was allocated to the 18 local authorities with the highest aggregates production, in proportion to production levels in each of those authorities. A full breakdown is provided in the following table.

Local authority	*£000*
Somerset	330
Derbyshire	330
Leicestershire	330
North Yorkshire	308
Staffordshire	210
Cumbria	150
Lancashire	143
Devon	120
Essex	112
Lincolnshire	107
Durham	107

Local authority	*£000*
Doncaster	107
Shropshire	107
Cornwall	107
Nottinghamshire	107
Gloucestershire	107
North Somerset	107
South Gloucestershire	107

In addition, £500,000 was allocated in each year to ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) to support projects in the remaining local authority areas.

Funds are provided to local authorities via an area-based grant which gives them freedom over how to spend money locally. There is no requirement for local authorities to report directly to DEFRA, but some, including Derbyshire, do put data about their projects onto DEFRA's ALSF database. Reports reviewing ALSF, including local authority funding, were undertaken in 2003 and 2006 and a further review is planned for early 2010.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the research project commissioned by his Department on the effects of electronic training aids on the welfare of dogs to be completed; how much the research has cost; when he expects to announce his decision on the regulation of the use of electronic shock collars; and if he will make a statement. [301024]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The research project on electronic training aids for dogs is due to be completed at the end of February 2010. The cost of the research project will be £469,000. We will not be able to announce any decision on the future use of such devices until the results of the research have been peer-reviewed, and we have had the time to fully consider the results.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many genetically modified food trials the Government has licensed *(a)* in each region and *(b)* for each species in each of the last five years; how much his Department has spent on genetically-modified food trials in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [301025]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last five years DEFRA has issued three consents for GM crop trials as follows:

Consent ref	*Applicant*	*Crop*	*Date of consent*	*Release site*
06/R42/01	BASF Plant Science GmbH	Potato	1 December 2006	Girton, Cambs.
07/R42/01	BASF Plant Science GmbH	Potato	14 May 2007	Trial did not proceed—no material grown
07/R31/01	University of Leeds	Potato	9 May 2008	Bramham, Leeds

The trials by Leeds university formed part of a wider research project on the control of potato cyst nematodes, funded mainly by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and with a contribution from DEFRA under a Government Partnership Award programme. DEFRA's contribution to the overall project costs was £41,000 in 2005 and £18,000 in 2009. Specific cost figures just for the field trial component of the project are not readily available. The BASF trials were entirely funded by the company.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the compatibility of the horse-riding activities which form part of the Appleby Horse Fair with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [301213]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is DEFRA's understanding that the RSPCA are present at the Appleby Horse Fair and work closely with participants to encourage adherence to good standards of horse welfare.

If anyone has any evidence of unnecessary suffering or if animal welfare is being compromised, then they can either report it to the appropriate authorities or take forward a prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Nature Conservation: Trade

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that police are trained to enforce EC regulations 338/97 and 865/2006 on the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in respect of the requirement for Article 10 certificates, with particular reference to endangered primates. [300311]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The police service is primarily responsible for training its officers in those areas where it has enforcement responsibility.

In addition, members of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) provide assistance and support in this specialist area of enforcement, including training opportunities. Members of PAW include the UK Border Agency and the UK's Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Scientific Authorities.

Animal Health (an Executive agency of DEFRA) also provides advice and information on CITES to police officers on request.

Pets: Retail Trade

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities provide evidence to his Department on the enforcement of the Pet Animals Act 1951 Model Standards for Pet Shop Licence Conditions; and what mechanisms his Department uses to verify compliance with those conditions by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* pet shop owners. [300310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local authorities are required to enforce the Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended, 1983). However, local authorities are not bound to use the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health's Model Standards as guidance. If anyone considers that a particular authority is not enforcing the 1951 Act or is not applying appropriate standards they can report it to the local government ombudsman.

Sewers: Private Sector

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to enable private sewers to be transferred to water and sewerage undertakers; and if he will make a statement. [301133]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 15 December 2008 the Secretary of State announced the Government's decision to transfer all private sewers and lateral drains linked to the public sewerage system from 2011. Since that announcement officials have been working to prepare proposals to prevent the proliferation of new private sewers as a precursor to the transfer of the existing stock. The proposals are contained in the Flood and Water Management Bill, which was presented to Parliament on 19 November.

The Bill's provisions will ensure that, in future, all new sewers and lateral drains connecting to the public sewerage system will be required to be built to a mandatory standard and will be automatically adopted by water and sewerage companies as public sewers.

Officials have also been developing detailed proposals for regulations to implement the transfer of existing private sewers and lateral drains that will be the subject of consultation this winter, prior to the regulations themselves being presented to Parliament for approval.

Wildlife: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities applied to his Department for funding to support local wildlife facilities in each of the last five years. [300771]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1394W, by my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock), to the same question. We do not directly fund, or keep a national register of, small community-led projects tackling the local environment, important though these are. My hon. Friend is welcome to write to me with a more specific request and I will respond to him.

Wildlife: Licensing

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of revisions to the schedule of restricted species of dangerous wild animals on the level of non-compliance with licensing requirements under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. [300309]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No assessment has been made since the Schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act was amended in 2007 with regard to the levels of non-compliance.

TREASURY

Banks: Pay

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislative proposals to limit the remuneration of directors of banks with deposit-taking licences to 10 times the average wage paid to employees of that bank. [300726]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have taken steps to ensure that remuneration paid at systemically significant financial institutions is commensurate with a prudent approach to risk and leads to long-term value creation. The FSA code, which comes into force on 1 January 2010, includes requirements for deferral and clawback from significant banking and other institutions. In addition, the Government are taking legislative measures in the Financial Services Bill that will strengthen the FSA's hand and enable improved disclosure of remuneration, which in turn will facilitate better shareholder oversight of risk.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300865]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not plan to host any Christmas parties in 2009. Where parties are held within the Department, these are arranged and paid for by staff themselves.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue which would be raised by treating all capital gains accruing to companies as income and taxing them at the appropriate corporate tax rate in 2009-10. [300725]

Mr. Timms: No additional revenues would be raised. Companies capital gains are charged to corporation tax as part of their total profits, at the same rate as any income profits. Consequently companies' chargeable gains are already taxed at the relevant rate of corporation tax for 2009-10. It is highly probable that there would be a fall in net receipts once account is taken of any accumulated capital losses which are currently only given relief against future capital gains, rather than income.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300209]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

The Treasury's Asset Management Strategy was published in December 2007 on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/vfm_deliveryagreement

It stated that with the disposals in 2007-08, the Treasury Group will have met the Government's aim that each Department should dispose of at least 10 per cent. of its asset stock in the period 2004-05 to 2010-11. There will be limited opportunities to make any further disposals in the remainder of the period through to 2010-11.

Departmental Coordination: Economic Situation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism the activities of HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to tackle the recession are co-ordinated. [300223]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury Ministers and officials are in constant contact with colleagues in BIS on economic policy matters including those activities designed to tackle the recession.

The National Economic Council is a full Cabinet Committee introduced in October 2008 to provide a new approach to managing economic policies across Government in the context of the immense challenges created by recent global financial and economic uncertainties.

The Chancellor and the First Secretary of State—as well as other HMT and BIS Ministers—are members of the National Economic Council, which meets frequently to assess the implications of the ongoing challenges in the financial markets for the wider economy, at both a global and national level.

In addition, both HM Treasury and BIS are jointly responsible for public service agreement 1 (PSA 1)—to raise the productivity of the UK economy. This mechanism provides a forum for coordinating action across member departments.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to Departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300940]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury Group's Value for Money Delivery Agreement, revised in July 2009, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, sets out how it is aiming to deliver £35 million of VfM savings by 2010-11, including £5 million increased at Budget 2009 as a result of work on the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP).

The Treasury Group will provide an update on progress towards delivering its VfM target in its Autumn Performance Report. Details of VfM plans beyond the current spending review period are not yet available.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301488]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 6 June 2006 there have been no official allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing by Treasury staff.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300181]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows the information requested, where such food products were procured by contractors supplying food to HM Treasury during 2008-09.

Food procured from within UK: 1 April 2008 To 31 March 2009

		Percentage
(a)	Mutton and lamb	87
(b)	Beef and veal	92
(c) and *(e)*	Poultry meat, including chicken and turkey	35
(d)	Bacon	15
	Other Pork	95
(g)	Unprocessed potatoes	90
	Processed potatoes	82
	Roots and Onions (including carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and swedes)	70
	Brassica (including Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower)	75
	Legumes (including beans and peas)	55
	Protected vegetables (including tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, celery and sweet peppers)	35
	Other vegetables (including asparagus, celery, leeks, lettuce and watercress)	45
(h)	Orchard fruit (including apples, pears and plums)	20

Food procured from within UK: 1 April 2008 To 31 March 2009

	Percentage
Soft fruit (including strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blackcurrants)	35

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of legal (i) representation and (ii) advice sought by his Department and its agencies in each year since May 1997. [300374]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301167]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300651]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not normally pay bonuses to consultants or contractors. Performance incentives may be included within contracts, where appropriate, and paid according to the terms of those contracts. However, analysis of all the contracts in each of the last three financial years to determine whether incentives were paid could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300652]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Debt Management Office have not paid any bonuses or provided any incentives to consultants or contractors.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301206]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chancellor of the Exchequer travels regularly by train in the course of his official duties.

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred under each such contract in each of the last three years. [300827]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has had contracts with two taxi companies in the past three completed financial years. The following table sets out the total expenditure on each.

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Premier Despatch Ltd., London[1]	168	139	216
1st Goldstar Taxis, Norwich	—	8	13

[1] Premier Despatch Ltd was acquired by Addison Lee in February 2009

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301332]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury and OGC offer flexible working and job share to staff, where operational constraints permit, as a tool to improve work/life balance. Many flexible working arrangements including job share are made informally between managers and staff and are not formally recorded. This information could only therefore be provided at disproportionate cost.

The UK Debt Management Office has thirteen staff who work either flexibly or part-time, representing proportionately 13.13 per cent. of staff. The UK Debt Management Office has an "Alternative Working Arrangements" policy by which staff may make an application for working either flexibly or on a part-time basis. Decisions are taken on the basis of statutory and business requirements and on a case by case basis.

Financial Services: Regulation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his assessment is of the proposals in the Financial Services Authority's Retail Distribution Review, with particular reference to their effects on independent financial advisers; and if he will make a statement. [301436]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Retail Distribution Review is a matter for the FSA, as the independent regulator. The FSA published a cost-benefit analysis alongside its latest proposals, as well as further analysis by independent consultants, on the FSA website.

Generic Financial Advice Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to implement the findings of the Thoresen Review of generic financial advice which the Government have accepted. [301222]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are testing the Thoresen Review's blueprint for a generic financial advice or 'Money Guidance' service through a large-scale pilot or pathfinder in the North West and North East of England. The £12 million pathfinder is jointly funded and delivered by HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority. Launched in April, it is on track to meet its target to reach over 500,000 people by March 2010, through the Moneymadeclear website, helpline and face-to-face services provided by a wide range of local partners. The Moneymadeclear website and helpline is also available UK-wide.

Interim evaluation findings from the pathfinder indicate that the Money Guidance service can be effective and the Money Guidance service will therefore be rolled out nationally from spring 2010. The Financial Services Bill introduced in the Commons on 19 November includes provisions for a new consumer financial education body which will lead and direct funding to national implementation of Money Guidance.

Government Securities

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what cost-benefit analyses his Department carried out to assess the value for money of the issuance of a sterling sukuk; and if he will make a statement. [300292]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have looked carefully at the case for issuing sovereign sukuk and concluded that it would not offer value for money at the present time but it will keep the situation under review.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code in the local authority area of South Cambridgeshire; and what the category for (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) number of floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code was according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [300362]

Ian Pearson: A table showing the number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas, has been placed in the Freedom of Information Disclosure Log on the Valuation Office Agency's website in Excel format. A link to the information is as follows:

http://w[illegible]voa.gov.uk/publications/access-to-information/Disclosure_Log_Internet_vB_publish6.doc

Income Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the tax revenues likely to be raised as a consequence of the treatment for income tax purposes of all capital gains accruing to individuals as income. [301502]

Mr. Timms: Due to the difficulties of assessing the large behavioural responses, which would result from a change of this kind, a reliable estimate can be determined only at disproportionate cost.

Monetary Policy

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the effects of quantitative easing on levels of high street credit; and if he will make a statement. [300291]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Bank of England has operational responsibility for monetary policy, including use of the Asset Purchase Facility. The Bank publishes quarterly reports on the APF, the first of which was published on 27 April with subsequent reports published on 27 July and 26 October. The Bank also reports on the APF in its Inflation Report and Quarterly Bulletin and regularly publishes operational information for the APF on its website.

Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation is planned for the implementation of the Clear Line of Sight Project. [300354]

Mr. Byrne: The Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill contains two clauses in Part 8 of the Bill that relate to implementation of the Clear Line of Sight project.

Clause 57 makes provision to include the spending of non-departmental public bodies, and other central Government bodies so designated by HM Treasury, in the Supply Estimates and resource accounts of the responsible Government Department. Clause 52 makes corresponding provision by amending part 5 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 to enable the Welsh Assembly Government to include in their annual Budget motions information on the use of resources by bodies funded by the Assembly.

Both clauses provide for a statutory instrument to contain an order listing the bodies to be designated.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with each of his Cabinet colleagues on plans for the next comprehensive spending review; when he expects to announce the arrangements for the next comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [301533]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental budgets have been set to financial year 2010-11. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will announce the timing of the spending review process to set budgets from financial year 2011-12 in the normal way. The Chancellor will set out more detail on the Government's spending plans at the pre-Budget report 2009.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax revenue which would be raised by limiting tax relief on pension contributions to the basic rate of income tax only for all taxpayers in 2009-10. [300728]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Latest detailed estimates of the annual cost of tax relief in relation to registered pension schemes are available in Table 7.9 on HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

Tax Allowances: Professional Organisations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the tax revenues likely to be raised as a consequence of the ending of tax relief on professional subscriptions paid by accountants and lawyers. [301504]

Mr. Timms: Information on the tax relief given for payments made for professional fees and subscriptions is not available by industry or professionalism.

Taxation: EU Countries

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of tax competition in the European Union on revenues to the UK Exchequer; and if he will make a statement. [300316]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Tax developments in all EU member states are continuously monitored and taken into account when deciding tax policy.

The comparisons we make illustrate that the UK remains a competitive place to do business with the lowest corporation tax rate of the major G7 economies.

The Government remain committed to maintaining the competitive position of the UK.

Ulster Bank

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received recent representations on the foreclosure by Ulster Bank on *(a)* building contractors and *(b)* small businesses. [300910]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

OLYMPICS

Olympic and Paralympic Games

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of the £9.325 billion public sector funding package for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has been spent since 2005-06. [301017]

Tessa Jowell: 33.8 per cent. of the £9.325 billion public sector funding package has been spent to the end of September 2009.

Further information is provided in the latest London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games quarterly economic report (published 23 November 2009). I have placed copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

Operational Efficiency Programme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what efficiency savings projects her Office put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to the Office's savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [300936]

Tessa Jowell: My ministerial portfolio requires my office to operate out of the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Both Departments have Operational Efficiency Programmes, the details of which are outlined in the answers provided by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport and the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office, respectively.

Third Sector Organisations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what funding her Office has allocated to third sector organisations to develop their sporting facilities as part of the plans for the legacy from the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [300321]

Tessa Jowell: An element of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) budget has been allocated for upgrading local host borough sporting facilities for use as Games-time training venues, and some of these facilities may be owned by third sector community organisations. It is expected that such facility developments will remain as a benefit in legacy.

Works to enhance existing facilities for the Games have been agreed at a number of venues including Eton Dorney (for rowing and flat water canoeing events) and at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy (for sailing events).

As agreements are being reached with each individual facility, the value of the budget available for these works is commercially confidential.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his contribution of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 466, how many Mastiff 2 and Ridgeback armoured vehicles military forces will receive in *(a)* the UK for re-deployment training and *(b)* Afghanistan for actual combat missions; and when he expects such vehicles to be issued to forces personnel. [301526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested about how many armoured vehicles military forces will receive in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

However, I am able to confirm that there are currently 51 Mastiff 2 and 59 Ridgback vehicles available for pre-deployment training in the UK. Under existing procurement, a further 22 Mastiff 2 for training purposes are due for delivery in third quarter 2010.

A further procurement package is being planned which will provide additional Mastiff 2 and Ridgbacks.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are involved in the training of Afghan security forces in Helmand province. [301528]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While there are currently approximately 440 UK troops directly involved in the training of Afghan National Security Forces in Helmand Province, over the coming year, as the UK re-configures its force structure in Helmand to fully support COMISAF's partnering plan, the proportion of UK troops in Helmand involved in the training of Afghan Security forces will increase significantly.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to increase the amount of training forces personnel receive in counter-insurgency measures relevant to combat operations in Afghanistan. [301530]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All forces deploying to Afghanistan receive a comprehensive training package that incorporates up-to-date tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs). These TTPs are constantly informed by a Lessons Learned process ensuring that current counter-insurgency measures being used in Afghanistan are taught to those about to deploy. The amount and content of such training is continuously reviewed and adjusted as and when operational requirements dictate.

Armed Forces: Accommodation

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 223W, on armed forces: accommodation, what the maximum sum payable under *(a)* food and incidental allowance, *(b)* get you home travel allowance, *(c)* home to duty travel allowance and *(d)* recruitment and retention allowance (London) was in the latest period for which figures are available; how many personnel at each (i) staff officer rank and (ii) equivalent civil service payband claimed each allowance in that period; and what the single (A) highest and (B) lowest claim for each allowance as at each rank or payband in that period. [300247]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The allowances mentioned are paid only to Service personnel who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, and not to civilians. Rates of allowances are reviewed annually.

Food and Incidental Allowance is paid at a daily rate of £12.78 (£383.40 per month, pro rata). This is paid to assist single and unaccompanied Service personnel in the UK to meet the necessary costs of food and incidental expenses when they are without access to Service accommodation/messing facilities, but have self-catering facilities, and does not require submission of receipts.

Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London) is paid at a daily rate £3.76 for all Service Personnel who work within five miles of the statue of King Charles I at Charing Cross. This is paid to counter reluctance to serve in designated London locations by contributing to the higher costs encountered during a permanent assignment in London and by compensating for the reduced quality of the supporting infrastructure.

Get You Home Travel, the rate of which is determined by the distance from a family home and the place of duty. The minimum amount payable is £1.07, commencing at 20 miles, and the maximum amount payable is £13.39 per day. The latter represents a family home being 530 miles away from a place of duty. It is paid to support the mobile nature of the Services and improve retention by reducing the financial impact of separation on Service personnel.

Home to Duty (Public) is paid to those eligible service Personnel who reside in Forces Family Accommodation, to assist with the daily cost of travel between their home and place of duty. In certain circumstances, Service personnel in receipt of Get You Home Travel will not be eligible for concurrent payment of Home to Duty (Public). Dependant on the distance and method of travel used the following maximum rates are payable:

	Miles/£
Distance each way from Place of Duty (miles)	70
Automatic motor vehicles - daily rate (£)	25.81
Manual motor vehicles - daily rate (£)	43.61
Automatic pedal cycles - monthly rate (£)	12.43
Manual pedal cycles - monthly rate	21.00

Home to Duty (Private) is payable to those eligible Service Personnel who do not occupy Service Accommodation, to assist with the daily cost of travel between their home and place of duty. Service personnel in receipt of Get You Home Travel will not be eligible for concurrent payment of Home to Duty (Private). Dependant on the distance and method of travel used the following maximum rates are payable:

	Miles/£
Distance each way from Place of Duty (miles)	70
Automatic motor vehicles - daily rate (£)	15.24
Manual motor vehicles - daily rate (£)	25.75
Automatic pedal cycles - monthly rate (£)	7.34
Manual pedal cycles - monthly rate (£)	12.40

Most allowances are payable on qualifying criteria other than rank held. The status of 'staff officer' has a number of different meanings and could be applied to a specific appointment undertaken by a Junior Military Officer or those officers of starred rank. As a result it would be difficult to obtain information on recipients of 'staff officer' status, as it would require the application of varied parameters to a number of different searches which could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All of these allowances are applicable to commissioned and non-commissioned personnel.

Armed Forces: Body Armour

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the protection offered to servicemen's testicles by body armour in current use; [300543]

(2) whether his Department is assessing or commissioning research on the protection which can be provided for servicemen's testicles with relation to blast injuries on operations; and if he will make a statement. [300547]

Mr. Quentin Davies: All of the protective personal equipment provided to armed forces personnel is constantly under review. The Osprey body armour systems are considered to be among the best in the world, and the survival rates are testimony to that. However, a direct by-product of that is that personnel are now surviving with other associated and sometimes life-changing injuries. We are continually seeking ways to further protect our personnel, and work is well under way to research ways of providing additional protection including for the whole perineal area.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what medical service and readjustment programmes were provided to wounded soldiers returning from Afghanistan in each year since 2001; what his planned expenditure on these services is in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [301449]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Medical Services (DMS) provide an extensive range of medical treatment and wider support for wounded Service personnel. Since 2001 we have made numerous clinical and administrative improvements to the treatment that we provide, all of which are intended to improve the quality of care that our wounded personnel receive. Where these are a consequence of operational requirements, they have been funded from the Reserve (Conflict Prevention Fund). The Government have also funded many improvements from within the Defence budget, such as £24 million of additional funding over four years for the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), Headley Court, announced in 2008.

For personnel on operations, the care starts in the operational theatre, with life-saving medical treatment on the frontline and in our field hospitals. Those who need further specialist care back in the UK are normally returned to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Birmingham's Selly Oak Hospital, which is at the leading edge in the treatment of multiple trauma injuries as commonly sustained by our battle casualties, and has since 2006 had a military-managed ward.

If patients require further rehabilitation care they may be referred to Headley Court, or for outpatient treatment at one of MOD's 15 military Regional Rehabilitation Units. We also provide mental healthcare for those who need it, primarily through our 15 military out-patient Departments of Community Mental Health across the UK (plus centres overseas); in-patient care is arranged for those who need it.

Wider support to those who are injured is overseen by a Welfare Coordinator, who will work with appropriate specialists to offer support and advice in such areas as housing, access to services and counselling if required, as well as providing support through key transition points, such as a move to or from Headley Court.

Medical policy for the DMS is overseen by the Surgeon General's Department. However, the organisational structure of the DMS means that comprehensive budgetary planning information on medical care could be provided only at disproportionate cost as substantial elements are disaggregated and embedded in the budgets of the single Services, individual military units, and overall operational budgets.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen have lost one or both testicles as a result of injuries received on operations in the last five years. [300546]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence publishes the numbers of personnel categorised as Very Seriously Injured and Seriously Injured as a result of Operations Telic and Herrick on its website at:

www.mod.uk

The figures are updated fortnightly. In addition, we are committed to publishing on a quarterly basis the numbers of service personnel who have suffered limb amputations as a result of injuries sustained while on operational deployment. However, in order both to protect the identities of small numbers of patients and to maintain operational security for the effectiveness of our protective countermeasures, we do not routinely publish VSI and SI sub-classified by other types of physical injury.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300877]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In accordance with internal departmental guidance, staff Christmas meals and parties and service mess functions must be paid for by non-public funds or by staff subscription.

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since 1997; and for what purposes such services have been commissioned. [300579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information with regard to expenditure my Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since 1997 is not held centrally, and due to re-organisation over the period in question could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for staff in 2009-10. [300723]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total paybill for some 50,000 non-industrial and 11,000 industrial staff below the Senior Civil Service (SCS) (excluding Trading Funds) covered by the main pay awards is £1.827 billion of which 2.7 per cent. has been allocated for non consolidated performance awards for year end 2009-10.

The total paybill for permanent members of the SCS is £19.3 million of which 8.6 per cent. has been allocated for non consolidated performance awards for year end 2009-10. This does not include Fixed Term employees at SCS level, who are employed on individual contracts.

0.4 per cent of the total paybill for staff (excluding Trading Funds) has been allocated for in year Special Bonus Payments for year end 2009-10.

European Defence Agency

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role is of the European Defence Agency; and if he will make a statement. [300503]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established in July 2004. The mission of the EDA is to support the European Council and the member states in their effort to improve the EU's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) as it stands now and develops in the future. The agency was tasked by the council to:

Develop European defence capabilities;

Promote armaments co-operation in the EU;

Improve the European defence industrial and technological base; and

Promote collaborative defence research across the Union.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has responded to the European Defence Agency's Capability Development Plan. [300506]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence supports the European Defence Agency's Capability Development Plan (CDP), which focuses the Agency's and participating member states' efforts on developing European military capabilities in 12 selected priority areas. We participated fully in the development of the CDP and we are currently engaged in a number of the CDP programmes. We will continue to support the CDP as a mechanism for addressing military capability shortfalls across Europe and participate in projects where we see military benefit to the UK.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding from the public purse has been provided to the European Defence Agency in each year since 2005; what assessment he has made of its performance; and if he will make a statement. [300507]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The European Defence Agency (EDA) does valuable work developing European military capabilities and works successfully with participating member states on collaborative programmes and projects. The amount paid by the Ministry of Defence to the EDA in each year since 2005 is provided in the following table:

Calendar year	*£ million*
2005	2.36
2006	2.09
2007	1.95
2008	3.11
2009	3.03

The figures in the table relate to the amounts paid for each calendar year. It should be noted that the answers provided previously to this question on 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1857W and 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W referred to financial years (April to March) but the amounts detailed actually related to calendar years.

Military Aircraft: EU Action

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the creation of a European air transport fleet on *(a)* jobs, *(b)* income and *(c)* military operational effectiveness in the UK. [300504]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The European Air Transport Fleet (EATF) aims to address shortfalls in military strategic air transport capability, for example through the pooling of aircraft or shared procurement. The UK will indirectly benefit from the improved aircraft availability across Europe for support to operations through increased burden sharing. The UK procures military aircraft according to our national requirements and does not have spare capacity to contribute to the EATF. Therefore, we do not currently plan to participate in the programme. As such we have not carried out any detailed assessments of the potential wider benefits to the UK. We will continue to monitor the EATF programme and keep our position under review.

Ministerial Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301194]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I last travelled by train on 24 November 2009 to visit Headley Court.

Warships: EU Action

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the UK will play in relation to the European initiative on naval interoperability; and what the principle objectives are of this initiative. [300505]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are two principal European initiatives on naval interoperability, the European Amphibious Initiative (EAI) and the European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative (ECGII). Both initiatives seek to enhance European interoperability and capability in Amphibious and Carrier Strike Group operations respectively through greater cooperation and combined training and exercising at both the tactical and operational level. The main objective of these initiatives is that, by working more closely together in peacetime, it will allow for a more rapid and effective deployment of a multinational Amphibious or Carrier Strike Group force, when required, in the framework of NATO or EU-led operations.

As a permanent member, along with France, Italy, Netherlands and Spain, and with its well developed and balanced Amphibious forces, the UK plays an important part in the EAI. The UK provides the Permanent Secretariat and in 2010 will assume the chair, which is rotated on an annual basis between its members.

The UK, as a lead nation in operating Vertical and Short Take Off aircraft (VSTOL) from the sea, also plays an important role in the ECGII as one of its permanent members, along with Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

WALES

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300864]

Mr. Hain: I plan to host a Christmas reception in London and another in Cardiff this year. We will not be serving food, only snacks and drinks will be provided. I would estimate the cost of each reception to be around £250, although the final amount will not be known until after the events are held.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300914]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials of his Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [300970]

Mr. Hain: My officials took 17 domestic flights in the last financial year at a cost of £2,516.66.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to Departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300942]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office falls outside the remit of the Operational Efficiency Programme as it is a small office of around 60 staff. However, we are currently reviewing the scope for delivering additional efficiency savings.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300177]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have any in-house catering. External caterers supply food and drink for meetings and receptions in London and Cardiff. Catering for functions and meetings in London and Cardiff includes, where possible and consistent with value for money, a mixture of fair trade or locally sourced produce.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301842]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has an English and Welsh website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

and

www.swyddfa.cymru.gov.uk

The combined number of page hits for 2008-09 was 71,315.

The combined number of visitors for 2008-09 was 21,150.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301157]

Mr. Hain: In the week of 9 November I met a range of individuals and organisations who have an interest in Wales and I attended the British-Irish Council.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300734]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301196]

Mr. Hain: I travel by train between my constituency, office in Cardiff and London on a weekly basis.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302022]

Mr. Hain: None.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300868]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office does not plan to host any Christmas parties in 2009.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300183]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office does not record procurement of meat, vegetables and fruit by country of origin and the information would be available only at disproportionate cost. Where possible, the Department always aims to use local Northern Ireland produce.

Police: Devolution

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the cost under each budget heading of implementing his Department's proposals for devolution of policing and justice powers in Northern Ireland. [300911]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office established a Devolution Programme team in April 2007 which up to the end of October 2009 has cost £633,961. Other staff across the Department have also been involved in implementing proposals for the devolution of policing and justice but quantifying these costs could not be done within the disproportionate cost limit.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of bereavement benefit in 2008-09; what the total amount paid was; and in what percentage of cases the benefit was subsequently reduced. [300619]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* Outturn expenditure, in cash terms, on bereavement benefits for 2008-09 was £675 million.

The available information on the number of recipients is in the following table.

Number of people in receipt of bereavement benefits as at each quarter in 2008-09

	Number
May 2008	59,850
August 2008	59,400
November 2008	59,190
February 2009	60,720

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

There is no information available about the percentage of cases where the benefit was subsequently reduced.

Housing Benefit

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of housing benefit in Norwich North constituency on the latest date for which information is available. [301696]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the tax cost of doubling the winter fuel allowance for people who have retired. [301506]

Angela Eagle: The current per household amounts for the winter fuel payment are £250 for those aged 60-79 and £400 for those aged over 80 (including the additional payment of £50 and £100 respectively). The additional public expenditure consequences of making winter fuel payments at double these rates, to only those who have reached state pension age, would be around £2 billion for 2009-10.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Canada: Embassies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Canadian citizens have sought the protection or assistance of British embassies and high commissions in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [301879]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We hold figures for the number of Commonwealth nationals who have sought the protection or assistance of British missions overseas, but make no further breakdown by nationality. In 2007-08 (the latest year for which figures are available) our overseas Posts provided 423 services, including advice and self help, to Commonwealth nationals.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300874]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information centrally, and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Colombia: EU External Trade

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to oppose a free trade agreement between the EU and Colombia unless human rights in Colombia are judged to meet international standards. [301877]

Chris Bryant: Yes, the UK is leading efforts within the EU to ensure that any agreement with Colombia is linked to a human rights clause. This clause will enable us to suspend the agreement if it is breached, and will act as a catalyst for frank dialogue with Colombia on the issue.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300180]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest period for which figures are available is April 2008 to March 2009. Details have been provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for publication by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The proportions of foods procured by the FCO that were produced in the UK are as follows:

Meats:

lamb and mutton - 50 per cent.

beef and veal - 80 per cent.

chicken - poultry meat - 75 per cent.

pork - 45 per cent.

turkey - included in poultry meat

other meats - 0 per cent.

Vegetables:

Ware potatoes - whole, unprepared - 99 per cent.

Processed potatoes - for prepared both whole and cut - 100 per cent.

Roots and Onions - for example carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and swedes - 82 per cent.

Brassicas - for example brussel sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower - 65 per cent.

Legumes - for example beans (broad), beans (runner and dwarf), peas (green for market), peas (green for processing), peas (harvested dry) - 52 per cent.

Protected vegetables - for example tomatoes (round, vine, plum and cherry), tomatoes (cold), cucumbers, lettuce, celery, sweet peppers - 25 per cent.

Other vegetables - for example asparagus, celery, leeks, lettuce, watercress - 55 per cent.

Fruit:

Orchard fruit - for example dessert apples, culinary apples, pears, plums - 50 per cent.

Soft fruit - for example strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blackcurrants - 31 per cent.

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since 1997; and for what purposes such services were commissioned. [300580]

Chris Bryant: The amount spent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on external legal advice and representation from counsel and solicitors in private practice by way of disbursements paid via the Treasury Solicitor (which form the bulk of the FCO's external legal costs) in each year since 1998 is as follows:

	(£)
1998-99	54,667.70
1999-2000	50,963.21
2000-01	117,117.11
2001-02	124,641.66
2002-03	697,878.22
2003-04	204,366.75
2004-05	331,731.68
2005-06	328,378.29
2006-07	387,591.16
2007-08	294,497.06
2008-09	362,177.08

The figure for such spending for the financial year 1997-98 is no longer held by the FCO.

The FCO does not hold information on aggregate amounts of external fees paid other than via the Treasury Solicitor.

These professional services are commissioned for the purposes of legal representation in court proceedings and obtaining legal advice.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300653]

Chris Bryant: The information is as follows.

(a) Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, its Executive agencies (FCO Services and Wilton Park) or its non-departmental public bodies make bonus payments to consultants or individual contractors.

(b) Incentive regimes are rarely used for contracts with consultants and individual contractors. If incentives are included in a contract they are negotiated on a case-by-case basis taking care to ensure value for money. No central record is maintained of such contractual provisions.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bonus schemes for its staff his Department operates; and what the purpose is of those schemes. [301559]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates two types of bonus scheme.

The main scheme is purely performance related, based on the previous year's appraisal. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage excellent individual performance and achievement during the year.

We also operate an in-year bonus scheme for staff below the senior civil service only.

The scheme is designed to give managers scope to recognise specific examples of good performance, which contribute towards the achievement of the FCO, directorate general, directorate or mission's objectives.

Departmental Property: Theft

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300963]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Central records show that no members of staff have been reprimanded, had their contract of employment terminated or been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301201]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last travelled by train to and from Brussels for the European Council on 29 and 30 October 2009.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [300780]

Chris Bryant: The total weight of paper recycled on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) UK estate during the last five financial years was:

FY	*Tonnes*
2004-05	153.88
2005-06	76
2006-07	130.4
2007-08	137
2008-09	148

In 2008-09 the total waste arisings of the FCO on its UK estate were 960 tonnes of which 59 per cent. was recycled. This compares to a figure of 48 per cent. for 2007-08.

Diplomatic Relations: Parliament

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of the report on promoting parliamentary diplomacy produced by the Political Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe, AS/POL (2009) 18 rev; and if he will make a statement. [301244]

Chris Bryant: The report on "Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy" is still in draft and has not yet been approved by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe or communicated to the Committee of Ministers. We will contribute to the Committee of Ministers' response in due course, if the Parliamentary Assembly requests such a response.

Gibraltar: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Gibraltar on *(a)* the application of the European Convention on Human Rights to Gibraltar and *(b)* applications for citizenship by Moroccans resident and working in Gibraltar. [301422]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While the Government continually monitor Gibraltar's compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights, there have been no recent discussions on the specific application of the convention.

The issue of citizenship by Moroccan residents in Gibraltar has been recently discussed by officials of the Governor's Office and the Government of Gibraltar. Processes which lead to the acquisition of British Citizenship in Gibraltar come under the responsibility of the Governor's Office on behalf of the Government. The Government of Gibraltar are responsible for regulation covering immigration to Gibraltar.

Government Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which functions the Government Hospitality Fund provided services in 2008-09; and which Department hosted each such event. [300432]

Chris Bryant: In the financial year 2008-09 Government Hospitality managed 213 functions hosted by Ministers or permanent secretaries for the following Government Departments:

The Office of the Prime Minister; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the Ministry of Defence; the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills; the Ministry of Justice; the Department for International Development; the Home Office; the Department for Children Families and Schools; the Department for the Energy and Climate Change; the Department of Health; HM Treasury; the Cabinet Office, and the Office of the Attorney-General.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by Government Hospitality in 2008-09. [300705]

Chris Bryant: In the financial year 2008-09 Government Hospitality in Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office recorded the following: expenditure on functions, equipment, laundry, porterage, flowers, wines, spirits and soft drinks was £488,044.

Iraq: Health

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of higher than usual *(a)* birth and *(b)* other health defects in the population of Fallujah, Iraq. [300528]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials in the Department for International Development (DFID) have received reports from the Child Victims of the Iraq War Foundation of high rates of foetal abnormalities and infant deaths in Fallujah. At present, the situation remains unclear due to discrepancies in the data available from a range of sources on this topic. DFID has requested further information on this issue from various international medical organisations operating in Fallujah.

Iraq: Iran

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of conditions in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, with particular reference to *(a)* access for (i) doctors and (ii) fuel tankers and *(b)* the consequences of Iraqi action against the camp's residents in July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [300259]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We understand that since the events at Camp Ashraf on 28 July, the situation is generally calm and the camp residents have continued access to food, water, medical and essential supplies. Officials from our embassy in Baghdad have met with the Iraqi government Ashraf Committee and the UN to discuss the situation. During these meetings they confirmed that necessary supplies were able to enter the camp unimpeded.

Our ambassador in Iraq wrote to the Iraqi Human Rights Minister to ask for a review of the events that took place at the camp on 28 July. The Iraqi government are undertaking a review and we have asked to be kept informed of progress.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's assessment is of the status in international law of the residents of Camp Ashraf, Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [300305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Camp Ashraf is in a sovereign and democratic Iraq and the camp residents subject to its laws. The UK is of the view that the residents of Camp Ashraf, as with all people in Iraq, enjoy rights and protections under the Iraqi constitution and applicable international obligations to which Iraq is a signatory. We do not consider that they have 'protected persons' status.

We do not feel a ministerial statement is necessary at this time.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy at the UN General Assembly on the Goldstone report on the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict is; what his voting intention on the report in the UN Security Council is; and if he will make a statement. [300327]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We made clear that the Goldstone report raised very serious issues. We worked hard before the vote at the UN General Assembly in New York on 5 November to reach a consensus on calling for independent investigations. In the end we had to abstain, with France and 42 others, because voting for would have meant endorsing the report and ignoring its flaws. But the issues are serious and the parties should address them.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the United Kingdom abstained from the vote in the UN General Assembly on a resolution endorsing the findings of the report of the UN Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict; who instructed the UK representative to abstain; who was consulted on the decision; and if he will make a statement. [300883]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK worked hard before the vote at the UN in New York, on 5 November, to reach a consensus on calling for independent investigation. In the end we had to abstain, with France and 42 others, because voting for would have meant endorsing the report and ignoring its flaws. But the issues are serious and the parties should address them. The UK representative voted in accordance with Ministers' instructions.

National Independent Electoral Commission

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of *(a)* the effectiveness of the National Independent Electoral Commission and *(b)* the adequacy of its operational resources. [300227]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Independent Election Commission (IEC) was able to hold the first Afghan-led elections for over 30 years. In the face of insecurity and threats to its 160,000 staff across Afghanistan, it enabled millions of Afghans to come out and make their voice heard in choosing the future leadership of their country. While there were minor complaints about the quality of some of the materials it used, such as the hole punches to mark the voter cards, the operation overall was well resourced. The UK contributed £16.5 million to the UN basket fund for elections, which included recourses and capacity building for the IEC.

Clearly there are lessons to be learned for future elections. But the processes in place provided for an independent audit of the results that came through the

IEC. The audit process, conducted by the Electoral Complaints Commission, in co-operation with the IEC following election day on 20 August, was robust and transparent: flaws in the process were reported, investigated and decided on, and fraudulent ballots removed. Following the conclusion of this process, we are confident that the result of the 2009 presidential elections reflects the will of the Afghan people.

Somalia: Human Trafficking

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on levels of human trafficking in Somalia; and what discussions he has had with his Somali counterpart on the matter. [301266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received any reports on the levels of human trafficking in Somalia. The extremely fragile security situation in Somalia means that the UK does not have any presence on the ground with which to monitor issues such as human trafficking. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held discussions with his Somali counterpart on the matter.

The February 2009 report of the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights in Somalia identified human trafficking, along with many other human rights issues and criminal acts, as an important challenge to be addressed. The report recommends that the Transitional Federal Government make human rights the foundation of its transitional period and that the UN address the root causes of smuggling and trafficking of people across the Gulf of Aden. The UK works closely with the UN Political Office for Somalia to progress the UN-led Djibouti peace agreement.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 666W, on Somalia: piracy, if he will place in the Library a copy of the final report of the regional needs assessment mission to the Horn of Africa in September 2009. [301968]

David Miliband: I have placed a copy of the final report of the regional needs assessment mission to the Horn of Africa in the Library of the House.

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of the United Arab Emirates. [301972]

David Miliband: The UK aims to strengthen relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in all fields to our mutual benefit.

We work closely with the UAE to promote support for enhanced regional and global security, we aim to improve cultural, sporting and scientific co-operation including supporting the creation and promotion of large scale renewable energy programmes by the UAE.

Our work also aims to support British citizens in the UAE and to foster effective trade and economic co-operation that will further enhance links between British and Emirati businesses to operate successfully.

Whistleblowing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301494]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have had a very small number of allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing since 6 June 2006. No further details can be provided because of the need to protect the identity of those involved.

CABINET OFFICE

Population: Statistics

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment the UK Statistics Authority has made of the accuracy of the population projections at the 20-year range which it and its predecessors made in the last 50 years. [301651]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply to the right hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Cancer: Children

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation to publish its review of the incidence of childhood cancers. [301060]

Mr. Kidney: I understand that the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) hope that the outcome of their further review of the incidence of childhood cancer around nuclear power stations will be available in the spring of 2010. We refer to the review in our consultation on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed decisions on the regulatory justification of new nuclear power station designs, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House and are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/reg_just_cons/reg_just_cons.aspx

Electricity: Prices

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the average cost has been of a unit of electricity supplied to domestic dwellings in each year since 1997; [300585]

(2) how many units of electricity have been consumed in domestic dwellings in each year since 1997. [300586]

Mr. Kidney: The information is as follows:

	Domestic consumption (TWh)	*Average price per unit (pence/kWh)*
1997	104.5	8.6
1998	109.4	8.1
1999	110.3	8.0
2000	111.8	7.8
2001	115.3	7.6
2002	114.5	7.5
2003	115.8	7.6
2004	115.5	7.8
2005	116.8	8.6
2006	116.4	10.2
2007	115.1	11.6
2008	117.8	12.3
2009	[1]73.6	13.9

[1] January-August 2009

Price information is the average unit price for UK customers consuming 3,300 kWh per year paying on standard credit terms. Figures for 2009 are provisional. Consumption data for 2009 are given up to the latest available month (August).

Natural Gas: Prices

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the average cost has been of a unit of gas supplied to domestic dwellings in each year since 1997; [300587]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of units of gas consumed in domestic dwellings in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [300782]

Mr. Kidney: The information is as follows:

	Domestic consumption (TWh)	*Average price per unit (pence/kWh)*
1997	345.5	1.8
1998	355.9	1.8
1999	358.1	1.7
2000	369.9	1.6
2001	379.4	1.6
2002	376.4	1.7
2003	386.5	1.8
2004	396.4	1.9
2005	384.0	2.1
2006	365.9	2.6
2007	352.9	3.1
2008	363.3	3.2
2009	[1]194.2	4.0

[1] January-June 2009

Price information is the average unit price for GB customers consuming 18,000 kWh per year paying on standard credit terms. Figures for 2009 are provisional. Consumption data for 2009 are given up to the latest available month (June).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300840]

Mr. Simon: Private hire taxi services are provided by Addison Lee. During the last three years the following amounts were spent:

	£
2006-07	16,095
2007-08	17,055
2008-09	10,823

Departmental Theft

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's officials have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300964]

Mr. Simon: At no time in the last three years has a DCMS employee been reprimanded or prosecuted due to theft of departmental property. For the years 2006-07 and 2008-09 no DCMS employee has had their contract of employment terminated due to theft of departmental property. In the year 2007-08, one employee had their employment contract terminated due to the misuse of a Government procurement card on unauthorised purchases. This matter is currently the subject of legal proceedings before the High Court, and it would not be appropriate to offer further details at this stage.

Gambling Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what mechanism the performance of the Gambling Commission against its objectives is assessed; and how often the Commission's performance is assessed. [301346]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission's performance is primarily assessed through a funding agreement with the Department which includes their agreed strategic objectives, together with funding and performance indicators/targets. The Department holds a formal sponsorship meeting with the Commission quarterly to review performance against both the indicators set out in the funding agreement and the Commission's corporate plan.

In addition, I recently held my annual meeting with the chairman and chief executive as required by the funding agreement. The Commission has also been subject to three independent reviews, all of which considered them to be fit for purpose (National Audit Office, Office of Government Commerce and Hampton Implementation Review).

Gambling Commission: Allowances

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much officials of the Gambling Commission claimed for reimbursement of travel expenses in the last 12 months. [301344]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission have advised that their officials claimed £217,655.29 for reimbursement of travel expenses in the 12 months to 31 October 2009. This figure includes the reimbursement for travel undertaken by 134 employees including those who perform routine compliance and enforcement duties.

Gambling Commission: Standards

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from the gambling industry on the effectiveness of the Gambling Commission. [301345]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I regularly receive representations, both verbal and written, from trade associations and individual businesses within the gambling industry about a range of issues relating to gambling regulation, including the role and effectiveness of the Gambling Commission.

Leisure: Local Government Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities have applied to his Department for funding for local leisure facilities in each of the last five years. [300768]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The only direct DCMS funding stream, to help local authorities fund leisure facilities, over the stated time period has been PFI Credits.

In the last five years, we have held three bidding rounds for PFI Credits under which local authorities could apply for funding in the form of PFI Credits.

A table showing the number of applications we received, for each of the bidding rounds, for local leisure facilities is as follows.

	Number of applications
2003	12
2005	17
2007	0

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the legacy from the London 2012 Olympics on participation in sport in the West Midlands *(a)* in general and *(b)* by children under 14 years old. [301589]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since the publication of the Government's Legacy Action Plan in June 2008, there has been significant progress on delivering our aims for a lasting community sport legacy from the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics across the UK.

We are investing £480 million, through Sport England's Whole Sport Plan process, in the national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport during the run up to the games, in order to drive up participation so 1 million more people are doing more sport. The PE and Sport Strategy for Young People sets out how the £780 million of DCMS and DCSF investment is targeted at getting more children to do five hours of sport per week. The huge range of programmes under these strategies will help to ensure that the sporting system in 2012 and beyond is in the best shape possible.

In addition, regional partners are capitalising on national programmes of delivery like Change 4 Life, Living Well and Free Swimming to encourage innovation through partnerships at all levels to create a real and lasting legacy from the 2012 games for the West Midlands. In addition, 10 local area agreements have already been signed for national indicator 8—local agreement to increase the number of adults participating in sport and active recreation.

Within the region there are six sub-regional 2012 partnerships and each has identified a series of programmes and projects that will help to increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity.

Operational Efficiency Programme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300927]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Royal Parks Agency and its non-departmental public bodies currently report on the value for money programme announced in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. This will deliver savings of £168 million over the three years to 2010-11, and as reported in the Departments 2008-09 annual report and accounts we are on target to achieve this. We have not been required to report separately on operational efficiency savings; therefore it would incur disproportionate costs to separate reporting to date.

Looking beyond the current spending review period the Department is working closely with its NDPBs to scope opportunities for operational efficiency savings by 2013-14. This is being taken forward through a variety of work strands:

> Benchmarking of non-departmental public bodies with over 250 staff. This will be published in the next few weeks. This work was initiated in July 2009.
>
> The DCMS procurement council is actively promoting collaboration and value for money solutions across the Department and its arm's length bodies. This builds on the work initiated in February 2009 as part of the Department's response to the Procurement Capability Review.
>
> The Property Asset Management Board is developing a joint estates strategy. This work was initiated in September 2009.
>
> ICT mapping will be supported by a new CIO Council. This work was initiated in October 2009.

These scoping studies will lead to detailed plans and savings in the new year.

Public Libraries: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the Charteris review on Wirral libraries; and if he will make a statement. [301215]

Margaret Hodge: We are currently considering evidence relating to the Wirral Inquiry in accordance with the Public Libraries (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1992. We will announce a decision shortly, and we will publish the report undertaken by Sue Charteris at the same time as the decision.

Tourism

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 tourist attractions in England *(a)* had the most visitors and *(b)* raised the most revenue in each of the last two years. [301590]

Margaret Hodge: VisitEngland carries out periodical surveys of the free and paid-entry major tourist attractions in England. Based on the self-completion questionnaires returned, the most visited sites in 2007 and 2008 are listed in the table. VisitEngland does not record revenue figures.

Name	*Visitors*
2007	6,863,733
Xscape Milton Keynes	5,500,000
Blackpool Pleasure Beach	5,400,062
British Museum	4,915,376
Tate Modern	4,515,258
River Lee Country Park	4,159,485
National Gallery	3,742,081
Xscape Castleford	3,652,003
Natural History Museum	2,809,900
Victoria and Albert Museum	2,200,000
Science Museum	
2008	5,930,000
British Museum	4,862,581
Tate Modern	4,207,677
National Gallery	3,260,731
Natural History Museum	2,705,677
Science Museum	2,500,000
Sheffield Winter Garden	2,420,815
Victoria and Albert Museum	2,000,000
Grand Pier, Weston-super-mare	1,843,266
National Portrait Gallery	1,618,309
Tate Britain	

Whistleblowing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301500]

Mr. Simon: There have been no allegations made by any DCMS employee against another DCMS employee of victimisation due to whistleblowing since 6 June 2006.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Register of Surplus Public Sector Land

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many sites on the register of surplus public sector land are classed as suitable for new homes to be built on; and what estimate has been made of the number of new homes which could be built on such sites; [300445]

(2) how many sites on the register of surplus public sector land have been on the register for longer than *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months. [300598]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency estimate that 143 sites on the register of surplus public sector land may be suitable for housing development. These sites have the potential to build more than 18,000 homes. This estimate is included in the general figure given for housing on surplus public sector land provided by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1346-47W. Individual Departments and agencies are responsible for deciding when to place or remove site details on the register depending on their operational need.

Currently there are 692 sites on the register. Of those 692 sites *(a)* 573 sites have been on the register for longer than six months and *(b)* 540 for longer than 12 months.

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in rural areas in each year since 1997. [300999]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in rural areas in England each year since 1997-98.

New build affordable homes built in rural areas

	Number
	10,050
1997-98	8,910
1998-99	7,800
1999-2000	7,200
2000-01	7,520
2001-02	7,340
2002-03	8,310
2003-04	9,170
2004-05	11,180
2005-06	11,930
2006-07	14,550
2007-08	

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 16,760 additional affordable homes were provided in rural areas in England (new build and acquisitions).

Total affordable housing supply statistics for 2008-09 will be released by CLG in December 2009.

These figures reflect the delivery of affordable housing in the 178 local authorities defined as rural by the DEFRA Rural Definition (2004).

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to develop community life in each of the last 12 years. [300662]

Barbara Follett: A broad range of policies and programmes undertaken by Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments aim directly or indirectly to develop community life. Information on the range of this activity could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers were purchased by the (i) Tenant Services Authority and (ii) Homes and Communities Agency in the last 12 months. [300452]

John Healey: The Tenant Services Authority has existed since 1 December 2008. Since its commencement, the authority has purchased:

No mobile telephones;
72 Blackberrys; and
41 laptops.

The Homes and Communities Agency has existed since 1 December 2008. Since its commencement, the agency has purchased:

54 mobile telephones;
116 Blackberrys; and
124 laptops.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301546]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government did not advertise any jobs in the last 12 months as online only applications.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of home information packs produced in each month since August 2007. [300706]

John Healey: The Department does not have a record of the number of HIPs produced. As HIPs must include an energy performance certificate (EPC), estimates are based on the number of EPCs lodged on the EPC register. The following table shows:

The number of EPCs lodged on the EPC Register between 1 August 2007 and 21 September 2008. These totals include some 87,000 EPCs produced by local authorities and housing associations for rented homes as part of the social housing pilot.

The number of EPCs produced for marketed sales since 22 September 2008. These totals are listed on a weekly basis and exclude EPCs for new homes using SAP as it is not possible to distinguish between EPCs produced in respect of new homes being built for rent and those being built for sale.

	Number
August 2007	24,915
September 2007	63,542
October 2007	85,192
November 2007	50,080
December 2007	28,834
January 2008	74,161
February 2008	101,176
March 2008	96,187
April 2008	113,801
May 2008	93,906
June 2008	88,316
July 2008	92,102
August 2008	96,665
1 September 2008 - 21 September 2008	74,995
22 September 2008 - 28 September 2008	23,513
29 September 2008 - 2 November 2008	141,914
3 November 2008 -30 November 2008	51,943
1 December 2008 - 4 January 2009	36,046
5 January 2009 - 1 February 2009	48,217
2 February 2009 - 1 March 2009	57,340
2 March 2009 - 29 March 2009	67,710
30 March 2009 - 3 May 2009	90,130
4 May 2009 - 31 May 2009	68,668
1 June 2009 - 5 July 2009	92,118
6 July 2009 - 2 August 2009	72,631
3 August 2009 - 30 August 2009	72,799
31 August 2009 - 4 October 2009	92,214
5 October 2009 - 1 November 2009	66,106

Homelessness: South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people there were in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* the South East in each year since 1997. [301278]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available, and this information is also collected.

The regional figures for the number of applicants accepted as owed a main duty and the number of households in temporary accommodation, for each financial year since 1998-99 can be found in Tables 3 and 7 of the latest Statistical Release. The equivalent 1997-98 figures can be found in earlier additions of the Release, accessible from this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data are not collected at constituency level. Lewes constituency covers most of Lewes local authority and part of Wealden. Data are also not reported at County level. Sussex County is divided into East and West. The following local authorities form part of East Sussex: Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden. West Sussex comprises of the following local authorities: Adur, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Mid-Sussex, and Worthing.

For local authority level acceptance and temporary accommodation figures between 1997-98 and 2008-09 (including those listed above), I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W, to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink).

Information is also collected and reported on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. Local authority data and count guidance can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/roughsleeping/

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons were for the requirement for an advance from the National Loans Fund to the Homes and Communities Agency referred to on page 56 of the Agency's annual report and financial statement 2008-09. [300605]

John Healey: The advance from the National Loans Fund (NLF) was made to the Housing Corporation, one of the predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), in 2007-8. This was re-paid by the Housing Corporation before the launch of the HCA on 1 December 2008 (though this appears in the HCA's financial statements for 2008-09 as these were prepared on a merger accounting basis to give results for the full financial year in 2008-09) and the amount owed was £ nil as at 31 March 2009.

The purpose of the NLF loan to the Housing Corporation had been to continue to fund some residual historical loans made by the Housing Corporation dating from the 1990s made to assist with right to buy purchases.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many property interests with negative value the Homes and Communities Agency holds; and if he will make a statement. [300611]

John Healey: Negative valued assets are those that have future liabilities attached to them. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) holds nine property interests with negative value.

The future liabilities associated with these assets are fully provided for in Note 31 "Provisions for liabilities and charges" on page 86 of the HCA financial statements, as laid in the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what salary has been set for each Homes and Communities Agency regional director for 2009-10. [300900]

John Healey: As at the end of October 2009 the salary for each Homes and Communities Agency regional director was set at:

	£
Regional Director London	157,325
Regional Director East of England	142,100
Regional Director West Midlands	131,848
Regional Director South East	131,816
Regional Director South West	131,950
Regional Director North East	129,920
Regional Director East Midlands	126,706
Regional Director Yorkshire and Humber	121,800
Regional Director North West	121,800

The salary award was backdated to 1 July 2009.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor received in interest payments in each of the last three years. [300438]

John Healey: This information for the years ending 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2008 can be found in the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09. For the year ending 31 March 2007, the information can be found in the published annual report and accounts for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation.

Housing: Planning

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS, on how many occasions in each region the Secretary of State has exercised powers to recover a planning appeal under section 79 of and paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the main reason for recovery was because the proposal was for a residential development of over 150 units which would have a significant impact on the Government's planning objective on housing supply balance and communities set out in the Statement. [301664]

John Healey: Planning Inspectors determine the vast majority of planning appeals, which numbered around 20,000 in 2008-09. The following table sets out the number of occasions in each region where appeals have been recovered since 30 June 2008 and the main reason for recovery was because the proposal was for a residential development of over 150 units which would have a significant impact on the Government's objective to secure a better balance between housing demand and supply and create high quality, sustainable, mixed and inclusive communities.

	Number
East Midlands	5
East of England	6
London	4
North East	0
North West	2
South East	10
South West	6
West Midlands	2
Yorkshire and Humber	0
Total	35

Land Use

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much surplus public sector land there was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last eight quarters. [300597]

Mr. Ian Austin: The register of surplus public sector land identifies land held by central Government and its agencies that is surplus to operational requirements. The register is published quarterly by the Homes and Communities Agency, and shows the county and local authority area where the surplus land is located. The reports of the last eight quarters, including the most up-to-date version that was published in September 2009, are available on the Homes and Communities Agency website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/SPSL-Register-September-2009.pdf

Legal Opinion

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each piece of legal representation and advice obtained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each year since May 1997. [300331]

Barbara Follett: Communities has spent the following amounts on legal services in the last three fiscal years. Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2008-09	5,292,381
2007-08	4,105,192
2006-07	3,909,949

Legal advice was provided on a regular and ongoing basis. The majority will be protected by legal professional privilege or commercial confidentiality or both. Providing detailed information about advice obtained would be at disproportionate cost.

The Fire Service College has supplied the following:

	£
2001-02	57,470.81
2002-03	73,613.72
2003-04	38,643.55
2004-05	79,410.99
2005-06	50,447.51
2006-07	27,519.36
2007-08	26,678.10
2008-09	51,907.48
2009 to date (31 October 2009)	71,250.26

Costs prior to FY 2001-02 and the purpose of legal representation and advice sought cannot be provided due to disproportionate cost.

The Planning Inspectorate has provided the following figures. They are unable to provide the reason for the expenditure as it is confidential.

	£
2004-05	640,906
2005-06	887,811
2006-07	1,007,750
2007-08	1,108,333
2008-09	1,417,017
2009-10	967,922

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre uses the in-house legal team at CLG for its routine legal requirements. No external legal representatives used since beginning FY 2007-08. Information for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* current, *(b)* retired and *(c)* deferred members of the local government pension scheme in each scheme administering authority (i) were members prior to 1 April 2008 and (ii) have joined the scheme since 1 April 2008. [300687]

Barbara Follett: Details of the number of *(a)* current members, *(b)* retired members including flexible retirees or the dependants of former members, and *(c)* deferred members in the Local Government Pension Scheme in each scheme administering authority in England as at 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009, and the net change in the numbers, are given in the following table. It is not possible to identify those that have joined the scheme since 1 April 2008 as these data are not collected.

	Data as at 31 March 2008			*Data as at 31 March 2009*			*Difference*		
	Number of contributing members	*Pensioners (retired employees (inc flexible retirees) or dependants)*	*Number of former scheme members entitled to deferred benefits*	*Number of contributing members*	*Pensioners (retired employees (inc flexible retirees) or dependants)*	*Number of former scheme members entitled to deferred benefits*	*Number of contributing members*	*Pensioners (retired employees (inc flexible retirees) or dependants)*	*Number of former scheme members entitled to deferred benefits*
Barking and Dagenham	5,333	4,216	3,298	5,414	4,340	3,524	81	124	226
Barnet	6,933	5,052	5,443	7,093	6,041	5,812	160	989	369
Bath and North East Somerset	34,681	19,509	20,473	35,264	20,395	22,579	583	886	2,106
Bedfordshire	17,025	10,432	12,122	17,288	10,772	15,825	263	340	3,703
Bexley	4,594	3,569	3,067	4,744	3,727	3,216	150	158	149
Brent	5,849	5,024	5,159	6,075	5,269	5,713	226	245	554
Bromley	4,930	4,123	3,153	5,206	4,271	3,338	276	148	185
Buckinghamshire	19,288	10,778	13,333	19,724	11,428	14,789	436	650	1,456
Cambridgeshire	22,308	11,054	20,620	23,071	11,604	22,780	763	550	2,160
Camden	5,637	5,424	6,392	5,544	5,580	6,784	-93	156	392
Cheshire	31,839	18,598	16,988	32,503	19,051	18,843	664	453	1,855
City of London	3,858	3,027	2,731	3,918	3,091	2,788	60	64	57
Cornwall	15,855	7,815	10,715	16,621	8,229	11,989	766	414	1,274
Croydon	6,367	5,514	4,625	6,636	5,557	5,327	269	43	702
Cumbria	17,057	10,894	9,873	17,695	11,449	10,512	638	555	639
Derbyshire	36,473	19,376	16,445	37,221	20,081	17,331	748	705	886
Devon	36,322	21,230	19,293	38,246	22,171	20,242	1,924	941	949
Dorset	24,246	12,086	11,950	24,652	12,704	13,241	406	618	1,291
Durham	19,249	14,353	7,997	19,297	14,628	9,823	48	275	1,826
Ealing	6,286	5,730	4,511	6,467	5,913	5,752	181	183	1,241
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	35,265	19,078	24,962	35,511	19,839	29,215	246	761	4,253
East Sussex	21,633	13,113	16,138	21,550	13,685	17,357	-83	572	1,219
Enfield	5,771	3,577	3,761	6,015	3,685	4,004	244	108	243
Essex	43,126	27,118	24,994	46,857	28,037	26,272	3,731	919	1,278
Gloucestershire	17,470	9,472	10,523	17,306	9,941	11,850	-164	469	1,327
Greenwich	6,510	5,147	3,594	6,694	5,225	4,584	184	78	990
Hackney	4,291	5,551	6,107	5,447	5,653	6,159	1,156	102	52
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,572	3,813	4,343	4,297	3,904	4,714	-275	91	371
Hampshire	46,218	27,387	30,025	47,417	28,378	33,549	1,199	991	3,524
Haringey	6,954	5,662	5,487	6,814	5,771	6,122	-140	109	635
Harrow	5,483	3,949	4,088	5,065	3,916	4,574	-418	-33	486
Havering	5,803	4,587	3,094	5,723	4,746	3,463	-80	159	369
Hertfordshire	27,464	18,529	20,843	28,610	19,224	22,557	1,146	695	1,714
Hillingdon	6,192	4,663	4,158	6,249	4,834	4,541	57	171	383
Hounslow	5,820	4,621	4,916	5,740	4,820	5,217	-80	199	301
Isle of Wight UA	4,808	2,716	2,955	4,835	2,843	3,327	27	127	372
Islington	5,838	4,850	4,992	5,978	5,107	5,341	140	257	349
Kensington and Chelsea	3,386	2,100	2,890	3,519	2,162	3,116	133	62	226
Kent	42,077	26,714	23,990	43,385	27,950	26,607	1,308	1,236	2,617
Kingston upon Thames	4,298	2,861	2,871	4,332	2,472	3,084	34	-389	213
Lambeth	4,468	6,019	7,309	4,771	6,093	6,238	303	74	-1,071
Lancashire	93,572	33,419	33,905	93,663	34,711	38,199	91	1,292	4,294
Leicestershire	31,782	16,309	17,456	33,097	17,256	18,047	1,315	947	591
Lewisham	6,380	6,005	5,815	6,436	6,085	6,237	56	80	422
Lincolnshire	20,221	11,592	17,831	20,200	12,179	19,831	-21	587	2,000
London Pensions Fund Auth	20,476	32,064	22,037	19,920	32,534	23,138	-556	470	1,101
Merseyside Pension Fund	90,367	39,024	26,328	90,543	39,880	28,108	176	856	1,780
Merton	3,355	2,800	2,548	3,395	2,879	2,679	40	79	131
Middlesbrough UA	26,976	16,101	13,512	25,718	16,736	16,044	-1,258	635	2,532
Newham	6,781	5,713	4,820	6,943	5,904	5,115	162	191	295
Norfolk	25,868	14,714	14,616	27,659	15,457	14,568	1,791	743	-48
North Yorkshire	27,535	12,491	17,246	28,372	13,333	19,953	837	842	2,707

	Data as at 31 March 2008			Data as at 31 March 2009			Difference		
	Number of contributing members	Pensioners (retired employees (inc flexible retirees) or dependants)	Number of former scheme members entitled to deferred benefits	Number of contributing members	Pensioners (retired employees (inc flexible retirees) or dependants)	Number of former scheme members entitled to deferred benefits	Number of contributing members	Pensioners (retired employees (inc flexible retirees) or dependants)	Number of former scheme members entitled to deferred benefits
Northamptonshire	20,180	10,477	10,084	20,124	10,946	11,461	-56	469	1,377
Northumberland	9,258	6,077	5,828	9,031	6,312	5,933	-227	235	105
Nottinghamshire	40,408	22,434	24,352	41,409	23,255	26,660	1,001	821	2,308
Oxfordshire	20,307	8,850	11,970	20,859	9,462	13,373	552	612	1,403
Redbridge	5,296	3,692	4,162	5,581	3,793	3,397	285	101	-765
Richmond upon Thames	3,253	2,740	3,029	3,364	2,839	3,330	111	99	301
Shropshire	14,975	7,084	8,309	14,846	6,320	9,335	-129	-764	1,026
Somerset	19,841	9,751	10,897	20,092	10,157	12,469	251	406	1,572
South Yorkshire Pension Fund	54,645	32,530	28,679	54,053	34,034	30,903	-592	1,504	2,224
South Yorkshire PTA	534	1,128	555	466	1,184	553	-68	56	-2
Southwark	6,699	5,823	5,608	6,777	6,016	5,752	78	193	144
Staffordshire	37,751	20,265	22,710	38,043	21,599	25,445	292	1,334	2,735
Suffolk	18,299	9,892	10,161	18,796	10,471	13,023	497	579	2,862
Surrey	26,955	16,501	20,451	28,200	17,203	22,400	1,245	702	1,949
Sutton	3,769	2,609	2,536	4,004	2,646	2,786	235	37	250
Tameside	103,172	76,241	69,864	102,016	78,521	76,193	-1,156	2,280	6,329
Tower Hamlets	5,530	3,644	4,508	5,395	3,639	4,847	-135	-5	339
Tyne and Wear Superannuation Fund	48,186	31,890	23,696	50,002	33,024	24,526	1,816	1,134	830
Waltham Forest	6,542	5,531	3,163	6,435	5,650	3,448	-107	119	285
Wandsworth	5,097	4,241	5,548	5,022	4,415	6,072	-75	174	524
Warwickshire	15,775	7,863	7,510	16,569	8,224	8,515	794	361	1,005
West Midlands Pensions Fund	107,845	61,206	66,321	108,224	63,840	70,783	379	2,634	4,462
West Midlands PTA	1,054	3,206	1,058	982	3,270	1,030	-72	64	-28
West Sussex	21,440	12,822	14,667	22,250	13,393	15,802	810	571	1,135
West Yorkshire Superannuation Fund	92,732	57,961	60,382	94,646	60,282	60,459	1,914	2,321	77
Westminster	4,232	4,700	4,895	4,319	4,753	5,073	87	53	178
Wiltshire	19,055	9,530	14,022	19,130	10,066	15,366	75	536	1,344
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	18,324	10,400	13,001	19,409	10,888	14,577	1,085	488	1,576
Worcestershire	20,269	11,606	10,425	20,282	12,184	11,100	13	578	675
England	1,656,341	1,050,217	1,054,733	1,685,096	1,089,886	1,148,629	28,755	39,669	93,896

Mortgage Rescue Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people resident in each local authority area have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received help under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme since the scheme was established. [300381]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January to September 2009 are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Mortgages

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first time buyers defaulted on their mortgage in each of the last three years. [301450]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions and arrears although information for the United Kingdom as a whole is published separately by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). These are not split by whether the borrower was a first time buyer or not.

National Coalfields Programme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made on the National Coalfields Programme; and if he will make a statement. [300446]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the Homes and Communities Agency's 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts, which are available in the Library of the House, and can also be found at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications

Overcrowded Households

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the overcrowding pathfinders in tackling overcrowding and severe overcrowding. [301764]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since April 2008, the 54 local authorities in the pathfinder programme have rehoused approximately 30,000 overcrowded households.

CLG continue to support and monitor pathfinder progress through regular meetings with the National Overcrowding Coordinator.

Sheltered Housing: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Tamworth Borough Council spent on sheltered housing in each of the last three years. [301615]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the amounts spent by Tamworth borough council on sheltered housing in each of the last three financial years (2006-7; 2007-8; and 2008-9).

Sheltered housing and Alarm call services

£

	Revenue expenditure	*Capital expenditure*	*Total revenue and capital*
2006-07	1,035,852.46	32,254.38	1,068,106.84
2007-8	1,064,090.72	42,294.00	1,106,384.72
2008-09	1,045,884.35	113,924.17	1,159,808.52
Three year total	3,145,827.53	188,472.55	3,334,300.08

Smoke Alarms

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to require *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords to ensure that all of their residential properties have working smoke alarms. [300219]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) assesses 29 categories of housing hazards, such as excess cold, electrical hazards, falls, fire, explosions etc. It applies to all residential property regardless of tenure. If a local authority considers that there is a serious (Category 1) hazard, it has a duty to take the most appropriate action.

As far as assessing the risk from fire is concerned, the lack of smoke detectors and or heat detectors, or defective smoke detectors and or heat detectors with alarms are considered relevant matters in an HHSRS assessment.

In 2001 the Department issued guidance to all local authority housing directors emphasising the importance the government attaches to encouraging the wider provision of smoke alarms in domestic properties.

More broadly, it has been our policy for some time that smoke alarms have a vital role to play in saving lives as they provide the vital early warning of fire and therefore help people to escape. Since 1987, the Government have conducted high profile national and regional television campaigns promoting smoke alarms which have proved very successful. Ownership has increased from 9 per cent. in 1987 to the current level of 80 pert cent. and we are seeking to raise it further as evidence suggests that those without alarms are often in those groups who are most at risk from fire. The Government are currently running a national media advertisement to promote smoke alarms ownership and maintenance messages.

Vacant Land: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of green space excluding flood plains there are in the Borough of Tamworth. [300770]

Mr. Ian Austin: The latest figure we have on the amount of green space within the borough of Tamworth, excluding the flood plain, is 2,400 acres. Government do not maintain a comprehensive record of information on green spaces, but this information is available from many local authorities, given their responsibility for the effective planning and management of green spaces. The borough of Tamworth may collect and hold its own information on the quantity of green space in its area.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to address the variation in levels of repeat abortions across England. [300328]

Gillian Merron: One of the aims of the Government's Sexual Health and HIV Strategy for England is to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. The standard national health service contract for 2009-10 includes a new clause to ensure that abortion providers improve access to the full range of contraception for women undergoing abortion. A specification for abortion services is currently being developed to support implementation of this new requirement.

The Department has invested £20.5 million in 2009-10 to improve access to contraception to improve all women's knowledge of and access to the full range of contraception and help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, abortion and repeat abortions. This includes £7 million for a "contraceptive choices" media campaign and a further £10 million to strategic health authorities (SHAs) for local action.

Primary care trusts and SHAs were asked to use their funding to improve access to all contraceptive methods to reduce teenage conception, abortion and repeat abortion rates, particularly in areas where teenage pregnancy rates were high. We are actively working with the SHAs to monitor additional spend and share best practice.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it cost his Department to *(a)* collect, *(b)* process, *(c)* collate and *(d)* store statistics on abortion in the most recent 12-months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300793]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collated in the categories requested. Registered medical practitioners are legally required to send a notification to the chief medical officer after each abortion is performed. Information derived from the form is used to monitor compliance with the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, and to compile statistical outputs as appropriate.

The overall cost to the Department over the last 12 months of issuing, processing and storing the forms, and the provision of statistical outputs is estimated to be £408,670. This figure includes staff, printing and information technology costs.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will rank by mortality rate those accident and emergency departments with annual admissions below 69,000 in the latest year for which information is available. [300330]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Bone Marrow Disorders: Donors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has spent on advertising for the recruitment of bone marrow donors in each of the last 12 years; and if he will make a statement; [300668]

(2) what proportion of people who were on the Blood Donor Register were also on the Bone Marrow Donor Register on the latest date for which figures are available; [300671]

(3) how many registered stem cell donors there were in each year since registration began; [300673]

(4) what proportion of bone marrow donors were resident in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Scotland in each of the last 12 years. [300913]

Gillian Merron: The British Bone Marrow Registry (BBMR) is run by the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Bone marrow donors are recruited from the existing pool of blood donors.

Therefore, the promotion of bone marrow donation is carried out in conjunction with blood donor promotion campaigns. Examples include the NHSBT website, *The Donor* magazine, which is sent to 1.4 million donors, and promotional material at blood collection sessions. It is not possible, therefore, to provide an exact figure for the amount spent on advertising exclusively for the recruitment of bone marrow donors.

Not all of those currently on the British Bone Marrow Register will still be active blood donors, although at the time of joining the BBMR all would have been registered as blood donors. As of September 2009, the estimated figures supplied by NHSBT for bone marrow donors on the blood donor register were:

Region	*Number*	*Percentage*
Midlands and South West	93,369	30
Northern	101,548	33
London and South East	92,712	30
Northern Ireland	9,060	3
Scotland	13,823	4.5

Note:
Numbers in Wales are not held.

The number of donors on the BBMR for the years 2001-02 to 2008-09 are listed as follows. The totals do not represent the availability of donors as this can fluctuate for many different reasons. We do not have figures for the Welsh Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

	Total
2001-02	149,500
2002-03	154,500
2003-04	176,500
2004-05	210,500
2005-06	250,500
2006-07	267,100
2007-08	283,700
2008-09	292,100

In addition to the British Bone Marrow Register, stem cell donations are also sourced from the NHS Cord Blood Bank, which at present has around 13,000 stored umbilical cord blood units.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of using DNA swabs to identify matches for bone marrow donors. [300672]

Gillian Merron: The British Bone Marrow Registry recruits donors from the blood donor population. The tissue type of a donor is identified through tests carried out on samples collected during blood donation, which is believed to be a more stable medium than DNA swabs. As there is currently no requirement for additional tests such as DNA swabs to be carried out, no such assessment has been made.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of all breast cancer cases were diagnosed through the *(a)* non-urgent referral route, *(b)* screening and *(c)* urgent referral route in (i) England, (ii) each cancer network area and (iii) each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [300553]

Ann Keen: The following table provides the most recent statistics for England, and the previous years requested, showing the number of breast cancers diagnosed by cytology and/or histology following breast screening in England:

	Cancers diagnosed by cytology and/or histology following breast screening
2003-04	11,277
2004-05	11,966
2005-06	13,524
2006-07	13,443
2007-08	14,110

Information is not centrally held on the number of cancers diagnosed following an appointment at an NHS breast screening service on a primary care trust or network basis.

However, these statistics are available on a breast screening unit basis; a copy of these statistics has been placed in the Library.

The NHS Cancer Plan (2000) introduced commitments for waiting times for cancer treatment between referral and first treatment and diagnosis and first treatment, for breast cancer. The statistics used to monitor these commitments indicate the number of patients who were urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP), and those who entered secondary care from another referral source or with a different priority. Only patients who receive first definitive treatment within English NHS providers are included within these statistics.

For the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 the following table indicates the proportion of patients who received first definitive treatment for breast cancer following an urgent referral for suspected cancer from their GP.

	Treated following two week wait	*Treated following other referral (including NHS screening programmes)*	*Total treated*	*Percentage following two week wait*
2004-05	14,575	16,244	30,819	47.3
2005-06	16,635	18,728	35,363	47.0
2006-07	17,610	18,298	35,908	49.0
2007-08	17,602	18,648	36,250	48.6
2008-09	18,045	17,998	36,043	50.1

Source:
Department of Health, Cancer Waiting Times Database

The quarterly statistics for this area do not identify individual primary care trusts due to small cell counts. However a table showing equivalent data by NHS provider, with accompanying details of data sources, definitions and calculations, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage of bed occupancy was for patients with breast cancer was in *(a)* England, *(b)* each cancer network and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [300556]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not centrally held.

Information is collected annually from national health service providers showing the average daily number of available and occupied beds. However, this is not broken down by specialty. The latest data are for 2008-09 and are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/index.htm

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were offered breast prostheses following surgery for breast cancer expressed in each cancer network in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of all patients undergoing breast cancer surgery this represented in each case. [300558]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not held centrally.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300882]

Phil Hope: No Ministers or officials from the Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Dental Services

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department plans to respond to the British Dental Association's proposal for changes to the dental access contract to be introduced on a trial basis. [300355]

Ann Keen: On 17 November 2009, primary care trusts (PCTs) were notified of the availability of a template, which has been developed as part of the Department's Dental Access Programme for use in contracting with dental providers for additional national health service primary care dental services. The final version of the template took account of views expressed by the British Dental Association during consultations on its preparation. It is up to individual dental providers to decide if they wish to tender for services provided in accordance with the template. No changes are being imposed on existing providers.

While the template includes quality standards, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England published in June 2009, we will pilot these recommendations carefully before making any substantive proposals to the general dental services contract and the personal dental service contract used in commissioning primary care dental services generally.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300935]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is working actively with its arm's-length bodies, national health service organisations and others including HM Treasury and the Shareholder Executive to implement the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme. Rather than initiating new projects, in many areas this builds upon significant progress made by the Department and the NHS in recent years.

For example, NHS Shared Business Services was established in 2005 and is now delivering shared back office services for over 100 NHS organisations.

Through better collaborative procurement, the NHS has recorded billions of pounds of savings in recent years, including through the Gershon efficiency programme. To ensure continued progress on procurement, a new Department of Health and NHS Commercial Operating Model was launched earlier this year.

Savings from the areas covered by the Operational Efficiency Programme will contribute to our existing value for money target for the current comprehensive spending review period. The Department's 2009 autumn performance report will be published in December and will include an update on progress towards this target.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301507]

Phil Hope: No allegations of victimisation for whilstleblowing have been made to the Department by its staff.

The Department revised its whilstleblowing policy in May 2009 to tighten internal processes for handling concerns raised by staff against any breach of the civil service code. It now also includes a process for handling concerns raised with the Department about external organisations or individuals involved in the conduct of our business.

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since 1997; and for what purposes such professional services have been commissioned. [300577]

Phil Hope: The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300638]

Phil Hope: The Department's two executive agencies and nine of its 10 non-departmental public bodies did not pay any bonuses or incentives to consultants and contractors in the last three years.

A single bonus payment of £1,000 was made to a contractor in the 2006-07 financial year by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board, which is a non-departmental public body.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [300781]

Phil Hope: The tonnage of paper recycled from Department of Health offices is as follows:

Table 1

Year (April to March)	*Amount (tonnes)*
2005-06	303.85
2006-07	286.70
2007-08	264.03
2008-09	218.20

The data in Table 1 relate only to the Department's core London administrative offices at Richmond House, Wellington House, Skipton House and New Kings Beam House. Figures for our building in Leeds are collected and reported by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Our departmental file store in Nelson, Lancashire, recycled the following amounts:

Table 2

Year (April to March)	*Amount (tonnes)*
2006-07	46
2007-08	48
2008-09	40

Data for Nelson are not available for earlier years.

Departmental Theft

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's officials have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300965]

Phil Hope: In the last three years, none of the Department's officials has been reprimanded or had their contracts of employment terminated for theft of departmental property, neither has any departmental official been prosecuted for such a theft or thefts, during that time.

Drugs: Misuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated by the National Treatment Agency for substance misuse to each local authority in the last three years; and how much is planned to be spent on such funding for the next three years. [301043]

Gillian Merron: The Department makes allocations of ear-marked funding in the form of the pooled treatment budget (PTB) to primary care trusts to supplement resources identified locally from mainstream budgets for drug treatment. Tables have been placed in the Library showing allocations for each year since 2006-07 and indicative allocations for 2010-11, and in respect only of the young people's PTB indicative allocations for 2011-12 also. Indicative allocations for the adult PTB for next year will be subject to change in the light of 2009-10 performance data submitted to the National Treatment Agency by local drug partnerships. No decision has yet been taken about funding beyond the indicative allocations as noted above.

Eye Tests and Dental Checks

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of providing every person with a free annual *(a)* eye test and *(b)* dental check in 2009. [300357]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the cost of providing everyone with a free annual eye test and free annual dental check.

The appropriate frequency for sight tests varies according to an individual's age and clinical requirements. Current guidance indicates that for the majority of people aged between 16 and 70 years, the minimum interval between sight tests could be two years. More frequent tests are appropriate for children or those aged 70 and over, or if an individual is at particular risk of eye disease, is concerned that they may have an eye condition, or an optometrist or ophthalmic medical practitioner judges that more frequent tests are clinically necessary.

The appropriate frequency for dental checks depends upon an individual's oral health status. Guidance from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (Dental Recall – recall interval between routine dental examinations, October 2004, available on the NICE website at

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG19/Guidance/pdf/English

recommends that dentists recall patients at any interval between three months and two years, according to each person's oral health needs.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are entitled to a free annual *(a)* eye test and *(b)* dental check; how many people received such tests in 2008-09; and what the cost was. [300358]

Ann Keen: It is not possible to identify how many people are currently entitled to free national health service sight tests and dental checks. Those groups who are entitled to NHS sight tests (which are available to all individuals within the eligible groups at no charge) or free dental care are summarised in the following table. Statistics are not available on the number of individuals who fall within all of these categories; nor can we identify how many people might be counted within more than one category.

Groups entitled to NHS sight tests	*Groups entitled to free NHS dental care*
Aged under 16, or aged 16, 17 or 18 in full-time education	Aged under 18, or aged 18 in full-time education
Aged 60 or over	A woman who is pregnant, or who has had a baby in the 12 months before treatment starts
A diagnosed glaucoma patient, or someone who has been advised by an ophthalmologist that they are at risk of glaucoma, or someone aged 40 or over who is a parent, brother, sister, son or daughter of a diagnosed glaucoma patient	A person who is an NHS in-patient whose treatment is carried out by a hospital dentist
A person diagnosed as diabetic	[1]A person who is an NHS Hospital Dental Service out-patient
A person who is registered as severely sight-impaired/blind or sight-impaired/partially sighted	When the treatment starts or when the charge is made, a person or their partner who is getting: Income Support Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
A person who needs complex lenses	A person who is entitled to, or named on, a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate
A patient whose sight test is carried out through a hospital eye department as part of the management of an eye condition	A person who is named on a valid NHS Low Income scheme HC2 certificate
A person who is getting, or whose partner is getting: Income Support Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance Pension Credit Guarantee Credit	
A person who is entitled to, or named on, a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate	
A person who is named on a valid NHS Low Income scheme HC2 certificate	

[1] There may be a charge for dentures and bridges

In 2008-09 11.3 million NHS sight tests were provided by primary care practitioners within the General Ophthalmic Service in England. This may not fully equate to the number of individuals who received tests, because some people may have had more than one test within the year. Further details including the breakdown of the number of tests according to the category of entitlement recorded for each patient is available in the report "General Ophthalmic Service: Activity Statistics for England and Wales Year Ending 31 March 2009" published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. A copy of the report is available at the Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/eye-care/general-phthalmic-services:-activity-statistics-for-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2009

In 2008-09, 18.4 million courses of dental treatment were provided by NHS primary dental care services in England to patients who qualified for free treatment. This will not equate to the number of individuals who received care because some people will have received more than one course of treatment within the year. Most courses of treatment will have incorporated a dental examination. Further details, including the breakdown of the number of courses of treatment according to the category of entitlement recorded for each patient, is available in the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09" published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care. A copy of the Information Centre report has already been placed in the Library.

The cost of NHS sight tests provided within the General Ophthalmic Service in 2008-09 is estimated at £223 million.

Since dentists are no longer paid an itemised fee for each element of treatment under the new primary dental service contract arrangements introduced in April 2006, it is not possible to separately identify the cost of dental examinations.

Health: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for patients to receive the 15 key diagnostic tests in each year since the collection of these data began in 2006. [300335]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Average (median) waiting times for the patients waiting for the 15 key diagnostic tests are shown in the following table:

Median waiting times for patients waiting for the 15 key diagnostic tests (weeks) March 2006 to September 2009

Time period ending	*Median waiting time for 15 diagnostic tests*
March 2006	5.8
June 2006	5.4
September 2006	5.2
December 2006	5.5
March 2007	3.9
June 2007	3.4
September 2007	2.8
December 2007	3.0
March 2008	2.1
June 2008	1.7
September 2008	1.6
December 2008	2.2
March 2009	1.7
June 2009	1.7
September 2009	1.6

Note:
Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. This should be taken into account when interpreting data.
Source:
Department of Health Diagnostic Waiting List Collection DM01

Herbal Medicine

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to collect data on the proportion by value of all medicinal products which are herbal medicinal products; and if he will make a statement. [301106]

Gillian Merron: We have no plans to instigate collection of the data that would be necessary to make such an estimate. Herbal medicinal products are generally sold as non prescription medicines and may be supplied by a wide variety of outlets.

Mental Health Services: South East

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce waiting lists for mental health services in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* the South East. [300272]

Phil Hope: The planning and development of health services, including metal health services, is a matter for the local national health service.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the risk-sharing scheme for the provision of multiple sclerosis disease-modifying drugs on the availability of other drugs for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, including drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [300341]

(2) when he expects the risk-sharing scheme will be able to demonstrate the value for money of multiple sclerosis disease-modifying drugs; [300342]

(3) what the cost has been of the risk-sharing scheme for disease-modifying drugs since its inception. [300343]

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of progress on the risk-sharing scheme for provision of multiple sclerosis disease-modifying drugs; [301571]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to date of the risk-sharing scheme for the provision of multiple sclerosis disease-modifying drugs; and what estimate he has made of the total cost of the scheme over its projected lifespan; [301580]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the risk-sharing scheme for the provision of multiple sclerosis disease-modifying drugs. [301581]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: While we have made no formal assessment, we consider that it is unlikely the scheme has made any significant impact on the availability of other drugs used to treat multiple sclerosis. The drugs included in the scheme are used within criteria developed by the Association of British Neurologists. The national health service is obliged to fund other drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) within the terms of the appraisal guidance. Natalizumab (Tysabri) is the only other licensed medicine which has an impact on the course of the disease and has been recommended by NICE for use in the NHS.

Data from the first two years of follow-up of the monitoring cohort of the Multiple Sclerosis Risk Sharing Scheme have been collected and these data have been analysed and interpreted by an independent advisory group. A paper outlining the results is to be published shortly on the *British Medical Journal's* website

www.bmj.com

We estimate that the costs incurred since the scheme's inception are in the order of £350 million. This figure is made up of £200,000 a year representing the Department's 20 per cent. share of running the contract; an average £35,000 a year to meet the MS Trust's administration costs for the scheme and drug costs of around £50 million a year.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many packs of the drug Natalizumab, brand name Tysabri, have been issued in each strategic health authority area in each of the last two years. [300344]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This drug was not dispensed in the community in 2007 or 2008 but has been used in hospitals. The rate of use by strategic health authority (SHA) is:

Number of packs for Tysabri[1] used by each SHA in England

Thousand

SHA	*2007*	*2008*
North East	0.0	0.4
North West	0.0	0.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	0.3
East Midlands	0.0	0.1
West Midlands	0.0	0.2
East of England	0.0	0.2
London	0.1	1.0
South East Coast	—	0.0
South Central	—	0.1
South West	0.0	0.3
Total	0.2	3.0

[1] A pack is a 15 millilitre vial.

Notes:

1. Where less than 50 packs have been used, the figure has been suppressed to '0.0'.
2. '—' Indicates no use of the drug.
3. Totals may not add due to rounding.
4. IMSHealth do not collect data from all hospitals and there is less than 100 per cent. coverage in some SHAs.

Source:

© IMS HEALTH: Hospital Pharmacy Audit

National Child Health Immunisation Board

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the minutes of the most recent meeting of the National Child Health Immunisation Board. [301360]

Gillian Merron: The National Child Health Immunisation Standards Board last met on 22 April 2009. The draft minutes and a copy of the presentation given at the meeting have been placed in the Library. The board's scheduled meeting in October 2009 was postponed to January 2010 as a result of the introduction of the swine flu vaccination programme. Minutes are usually published after they are agreed at the board's next meeting.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on holding board meetings in public; [300463]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* foundation trusts and *(b)* other NHS trusts hold board meetings in public. [300464]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The conduct of national health service foundation trust board meetings is a matter for the trust.

NHS trusts and primary care trusts are expected to follow the model standing orders issued by the Department. These require board meetings to be held in public, although the press and public may be excluded when the board is considering confidential business, where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) has issued a Code of Governance for NHS foundation trusts. This advises directors of NHS foundation trusts to follow a policy of openness and transparency in their proceedings and decision making, unless this conflicts with a need to protect the wider interest of the public or the trust, including commercial-in-confidence matters.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 108W, on NHS: finance, how much will be repaid against each loan in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [301021]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department makes loans to national health services trusts and national health service foundation trusts. The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average speed is of N3 network connections. [301371]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are now over 32,000 live connections to the N3 network, including pharmacies, and the information requested could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The size, and hence speed, of the N3 network connection is adjustable to take into account the systems and services used, and the number of staff employed, at any given national health service location. To exemplify the range of speeds delivered, large acute hospital sites are typically connected to N3 by 100 megabits per second (mbps) Ethernet services. General practitioner practice sites might receive as much as eight mbps, though typically rather less depending, among other factors, on distance from the telephone exchange.

NHS: Manpower

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage an increase in the number of people in the thoracic surgical workforce in the NHS. [301630]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are best placed to decide what staff they need to deliver services to best meet the needs of the local populations, whether that is clinical staff such as thoracic surgeons, nurses and doctors, or non-clinical support staff including managers to help plan local services more effectively.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of NHS prescription items attracted a charge in each of the last three years. [301066]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number and percentage of prescription items attracting a charge is set out on page 25 of the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care's "Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community: Statistics for 1998 to 2008: England", available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/prescriptions/prescriptions-dispensed-in-the-community-statistics-for-1998-to-2008:-england

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to a national non-emergency, three-digit telephone number; [300988]

(2) how much has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* allocated to projects relating to a national non-emergency, three-digit telephone number in each of the last three years. [300994]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently 0.5 full-time equivalent members of staff in the Home Office who are involved with working on the policy for the '101' single national non-emergency service as part of their wider work to build public confidence in the police and their partners.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has one member of staff who is responsible for contact management in the police service and their remit would therefore include the 101 single non-emergency service, as part of their wider role.

The approximate total spent and allocated by the Home Office on projects related to the '101' national non-emergency service in each of the last three years is:

		£ million
	Spent	*Allocated*
2008-09	1.1	1
2007-08	12.5	13
2006-07	16.7	31

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions there were for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years from *(a)* on-licence and *(b)* off-licence premises in each police force area in the south east in each of the last five years. [301273]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of males, females and other defendants proceeded against for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in table 1. The data are broken down by police force area.

Establishments are included as 'other defendants' as it is not possible to differentiate between sales on and off premises in the court proceedings database.

Additionally, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) are available for this offence. Table 2 shows the number of PNDs issued for "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18" by gender from 2004 to 2007 (latest available).

Statistics for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3] [4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	Male	1	—	7	2	—
	Female	—	—	7	3	1
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	—	14	5	1
Bedfordshire	Male	1	5	10	23	2
	Female	1	2	—	1	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—		—
	Total	2	7	10	24	2
Cambridgeshire	Male	—	3	6	16	8
	Female	—	1	3	11	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	4	9	27	10
Cheshire	Male	8	14	4	6	6
	Female	7	6	4	—	—
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	16	20	8	6	6
Cleveland	Male	1	6	11	8	8
	Female	1	4	3	3	5
	Other defendant	2	—	—	—	—
	Total	4	10	14	11	13
Cumbria	Male	1	1	2	1	1
	Female	—	—	6	—	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1	1	8	1	1
Derbyshire	Male	27	18	9	7	6
	Female	10	4	4	1	1
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	37	22	13	8	7
Devon and Cornwall	Male	—	7	5	4	3
	Female	—	5	3	2	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	12	8	6	5
Dorset	Male	7	6	30	6	2
	Female	2	4	5	1	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	9	10	35	7	2
Durham	Male	—	2	2	—	1
	Female	—	—	—	—	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total	—	2	2	—	3
Essex	Male	4	1	8	14	12
	Female	3	1	—	2	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	7	2	8	16	14
Gloucestershire	Male	—	1	4	9	3
	Female	—	—	1	1	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	1	5	10	3
Greater Manchester	Male	85	124	81	111	30
	Female	40	55	36	48	5
	Other defendant	4	1	—	1	—
	Total	129	180	117	160	35
Hampshire	Male	—	6	7	2	4
	Female	—	3	4	—	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	9	11	2	4
Hertfordshire	Male	1	7	3	40	21
	Female	—	1	—	—	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	1
	Total	1	8	3	40	24
Humberside	Male	—	3	2	3	2
	Female	—	8	—	3	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	11	2	6	5
Kent	Male	9	10	13	2	2
	Female	3	3	1	—	—
	Other defendant	—	2	—	—	—
	Total	12	15	14	2	2
Lancashire	Male	15	14	49	22	24
	Female	8	8	40	10	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	23	22	89	32	27
Leicestershire	Male	9	9	21	35	40
	Female	6	—	6	10	15
	Other defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	15	10	27	45	55
Lincolnshire	Male	9	3	7	5	2
	Female	8	1	4	5	1
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	17	4	11	10	3
Merseyside	Male	25	13	12	12	21
	Female	16	6	4	22	7
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	42	19	16	34	28
Metropolitan Police	Male	84	133	223	197	136
	Female	13	22	28	24	18
	Other defendant	16	12	2	15	22
	Total	113	167	253	236	176
Norfolk	Male	1	6	—	—	1
	Female	—	3	3	—	1
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1	9	3	—	2
North Yorkshire	Male	3	16	2	25	16
	Female	4	6	1	16	13
	Other defendant	—	—	—	27	—
	Total	7	22	3	68	29
Northamptonshire	Male	—	—	7	11	7
	Female	—	—	4	2	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	—	11	13	7
Northumbria	Male	31	36	65	30	8
	Female	7	14	14	10	4
	Other defendant	—	1	—	1	—
	Total	38	51	79	41	12
Nottinghamshire	Male	5	—	6	26	3
	Female	4	—	5	11	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	9	—	11	37	5
South Yorkshire	Male	—	4	11	8	4
	Female	—	1	7	2	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	2
	Total	—	5	18	10	9
Staffordshire	Male	3	5	14	13	16
	Female	5	—	6	10	10
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	8	5	20	23	26
Suffolk	Male	—	1	1	2	—

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates court for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	Sex	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Female	—	—	2	2	—
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	1	3	4	—
Surrey	Male	4	9	12	17	3
	Female	—	1	1	1	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	4	10	13	18	5
Sussex	Male	7	3	2	23	8
	Female	1	1	2	9	3
	Other defendant	—	—	—	1	—
	Total	8	4	4	33	11
Thames Valley	Male	2	19	6	28	14
	Female	4	8	9	8	6
	Other defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	6	28	15	36	20
Warwickshire	Male	19	17	5	2	1
	Female	7	9	2	—	—
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	27	26	7	2	1
West Mercia	Male	7	3	17	10	5
	Female	—	1	2	—	—
	Other defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	7	5	19	10	5
West Midlands	Male	20	34	53	55	40
	Female	—	11	22	18	16
	Other defendant	—	—	1	1	1
	Total	20	45	76	74	57
West Yorkshire	Male	1	17	9	14	8
	Female	—	4	6	3	1
	Other defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	21	15	17	9
Wiltshire	Male	4	5	16	9	5
	Female	1	3	7	1	1
	Other defendant	1	2	—	—	—
	Total	6	10	23	10	6
Dyfed-Powys	Male	5	15	4	12	6
	Female	—	9	2	4	4
	Other defendant	—	—	—	2	3
	Total	5	24	6	18	13
Gwent	Male	—	8	13	14	8
	Female	2	12	3	6	5
	Other defendant	—	—	—	1	—
	Total	2	20	16	21	13
North Wales	Male	4	3	8	3	6
	Female	3	2	2	1	2
	Other defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	7	5	10	4	8
South Wales	Male	24	27	40	56	22
	Female	5	6	15	15	4
	Other defendant	—	1	—	1	3
	Total	29	34	55	72	29
England and Wales	Male	427	614	807	883	515
	Female	161	225	274	266	146
	Other defendant	28	22	3	50	32
	Total	616	861	1,084	1,199	693

[1] Other defendants include companies and public bodies etc.

[2] Includes the following offences:

(a) Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.

(b) Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

(c) Sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(d) Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(e) Persistently selling alcohol to children.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police force. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Ref: IOS 043-09

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	Sex	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	Male	—	29	25	33
	Female	—	27	29	27
	Total	—	56	54	60
Bedfordshire	Male	—	1	6	10
	Female	—	1	7	3
	Total	—	2	13	13
Cambridgeshire	Male	—	8	14	16
	Female	—	3	15	6
	Total	—	11	29	22
Cheshire	Male	—	21	19	19

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

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Force	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Female	—	28	31	7
	Total	—	49	50	26
Cleveland	Male	—	10	10	27
	Female	—	23	13	38
	Total	—	33	23	65
Cumbria	Male	—	10	11	13
	Female	—	13	10	27
	Total	—	23	21	40
Derbyshire	Male	—	5	16	50
	Female	—	3	14	51
	Total	—	8	30	101
Devon and Cornwall	Male	—	32	54	31
	Female	—	50	61	38
	Total	—	82	115	69
Dorset	Male	13	3	9	20
	Female	9	19	20	15
	Total	22	22	29	35
Durham	Male	—	—	1	12
	Female	—	—	—	13
	Total	—	—	1	25
Essex	Male	3	60	42	53
	Female	4	60	52	58
	Total	7	120	94	111
Gloucestershire	Male	—	17	28	44
	Female	—	25	26	42
	Total	—	42	54	86
Greater Manchester	Male	—	60	122	98
	Female	—	67	89	43
	Total	—	127	211	141
Hampshire	Male	1	31	57	114
	Female	1	36	52	91
	Total	2	67	109	205
Hertfordshire	Male	—	2	30	46
	Female	—	1	11	21
	Total	—	3	41	67
Humberside	Male	1	13	22	46
	Female	1	32	26	52
	Total	2	45	48	98
Kent	Male	—	8	3	16
	Female	—	2	2	7
	Total	—	10	5	23
Lancashire	Male	17	95	105	100
	Female	13	95	101	90
	Total	30	190	206	190
Leicestershire	Male	2	22	26	89
	Female	—	24	33	61
	Total	2	46	59	150
Lincolnshire	Male	—	10	21	15
	Female	—	16	36	39
	Total	—	26	57	54
Merseyside	Male	2	44	56	72
	Female	—	29	71	103
	Total	2	73	127	175
Metropolitan Police	Male	12	113	190	264
	Female	9	48	62	77
	Total	21	161	252	341
Norfolk	Male	—	—	5	17
	Female	—	—	5	19
	Total	—	—	10	36
Northamptonshire	Male	1	15	18	15
	Female	—	24	16	7
	Total	1	39	34	22
Northumbria	Male	1	24	47	44
	Female	—	24	37	23
	Total	1	48	84	67
North Yorkshire	Male	—	—	4	8
	Female	—	—	7	17
	Total	—	—	11	25
Nottinghamshire	Male	3	54	125	81
	Female	6	63	140	87
	Total	9	117	265	168
South Yorkshire	Male	1	47	76	69
	Female	1	60	82	90
	Total	2	107	158	159
Staffordshire	Male	—	6	34	32
	Female	—	13	41	35
	Total	—	19	75	67
Suffolk	Male	—	11	14	7
	Female	—	8	7	13
	Total	—	19	21	20

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	Sex	2004	2005	2006	2007
Surrey	Male	—	—	22	57
	Female	—	—	12	15
	Total	—	—	34	72
Sussex	Male	—	29	116	63
	Female	—	34	100	56
	Total	—	63	216	119
Thames Valley	Male	—	8	59	80
	Female	—	4	36	51
	Total	—	12	95	131
Warwickshire	Male	—	3	1	24
	Female	—	—	4	13
	Total	—	3	5	37
West Mercia	Male	1	4	11	16
	Female	—	18	23	20
	Total	1	22	34	36
West Midlands	Male	2	69	83	90
	Female	4	45	60	45
	Total	6	114	143	135
West Yorkshire	Male	4	32	64	97
	Female	—	40	41	64
	Total	4	72	105	161
Wiltshire	Male	—	5	9	15
	Female	—	3	9	9
	Total	—	8	18	24
Dyfed-Powys	Male	—	6	5	9
	Female	—	12	4	11
	Total	—	18	9	20
Gwent	Male	—	9	27	37
	Female	—	11	23	34
	Total	—	20	50	71
North Wales	Male	1	20	41	29
	Female	—	38	42	34
	Total	1	58	83	63
South Wales	Male	—	70	67	28
	Female	—	53	50	25
	Total	—	123	117	53
England and Wales	Male	62	1,006	1,895	2,006
	Female	51	1,052	1,300	1,577
	Total	113	2,058	3,195	3,583

[1] This PND offence was added to the scheme on 1 November 2004.

Asylum

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Belarus, *(c)* Burma, *(d)* the People's Republic of China, *(e)* Colombia, *(f)* Cuba, *(g)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(h)* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(i)* Iran, *(j)* Iraq, *(k)* Israel, *(l)* the Palestinian Territories, *(m)* Pakistan, *(n)* the Russian Federation, *(o)* Saudi Arabia, *(p)* Somalia, *(q)* Sudan, *(r)* Syria, *(s)* Turkmenistan, *(t)* Uzbekistan, *(u)* Vietnam and *(v)* Zimbabwe were refused asylum in the UK in each month of (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009 to date; and how many in each category (A) are awaiting a decision on an asylum application and (B) have been forcibly deported. [300732]

Mr. Woolas: Table 1 placed in the House Library shows the number of principal applicants refused asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave at initial decision in the UK in each month of 2007, 2008 and from January to June for 2009 for the requested nationalities. Information on asylum applications of those refused and awaiting a decision or who have been forcibly deported, by nationality, is unavailable and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. Table 2 placed in the House Library shows the number of removals and voluntary departures of principal asylum cases, January 2007 to June 2009.

Information on immigration and asylum is published annually and quarterly. The latest statistics for Q3 2009 will be available on 26 November 2009. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q2 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations his Department has received of ill-treatment of asylum seekers returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last four years; and how many investigations his Department has carried out into such allegations in each such year. [300414]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The UK Border Agency does not record the number of allegations of ill treatment on return to countries of origin. When specific allegations are made that a returnee to the Democratic Republic of Congo, or any other country, has experienced ill-treatment on return from the UK, then these are investigated.

Borders: Personal Records

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the governance structures for the e-borders programme. [300511]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders governance structures were assessed in February 2009 following an Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Programme health check. Progress was then reviewed in May 2009 for the subsequent (OGC) Gateway 4 review, and then again in September 2009. The structures are under continuous review to ensure delivery of the e-Borders solution.

Child Migrant Programme

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether children sent to Australia under the Child Migrant Programme are entitled to *(a)* UK citizenship and *(b)* unrestricted access to the UK. [300516]

Mr. Woolas: Those sent to Australia from the United Kingdom under the Child Migrant Scheme are assumed to have been born in the United Kingdom. As such they will hold British citizenship and have a right of abode in the United Kingdom. This means that they can have access to British passports and consular services, and have the right to enter, live and work in the United Kingdom without restriction.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* violent and *(b)* non-violent crimes committed in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [300298]

4

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in England and Wales and is given in the table. Forces have been classified as urban or rural in accordance with 'A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods' (ACORN) guidance as used in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/02 entitled 'Rural Crime in England and Wales'.

In addition to those forces classified as urban or rural, those forces classified as 'middling' have also been included in the table for completeness.

Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales—2006-07 to 2008-09

Number of offences

	Violence against the person	*Other offences*	*All offences*
2006-07			
Urban[1]	574,526	2,481,410	3,055,936
Rural[2]	153,137	618,554	771,691
Middling[3]	302,372	1,221,154	1,523,526
Total	1,030,035	4,321,118	5,351,153
2007-08			
Urban[1]	523,243	2,260,520	2,783,763
Rural[2]	138,539	567,722	706,261
Middling[3]	283,792	1,109,482	1,393,274
Total	945,574	3,937,724	4,883,298
2008-09			
Urban[1]	496,442	2,143,503	2,639,945
Rural[2]	128,751	541,891	670,642
Middling[3]	262,749	1,064,265	1,327,014
Total	887,942	3,749,659	4,637,601

Offences recorded by the police in England and [illegible] 2006-07 to 2008-09

[1] Comprises the police force areas of Cheshire, City of London, Cleveland, Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Merseyside, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, West Midlands, West Yorkshire.

[2] Comprises the police force areas of Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire.

[3] Comprises the police force areas of Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Essex, Gwent, Hampshire, Humberside, Kent, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Sussex, Thames Valley, Warwickshire.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each of the last three years. [300521]

Mr. Woolas: Display energy certificates (DEC) were introduced in 2008. OGC publish central Government Departments' display energy certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level twice a year. The most recent data for the Home Office, published on 31 July 2009, which include DEC ratings up to and including 28 February 2009 can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Feb09.xls

This information covers one Home Office Building, 16 UK Border properties and eight Identity and Passport Service buildings.

Data to October 2008 can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Oct08.xls

Data relating to the month ending 30 September 2009 will be published on 18 December 2009.

Departmental Security

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security passes his Department has issued in each of the last five years. [301556]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide figures for each of the past five years because the security pass database is regularly refreshed and does not retain details of deleted security passes issued for the core Home Office at 2 Marsham street. There are currently 8,551 active security passes for 2 Marsham street. This figure includes permanent core Home Office staff and contractors, temporary passes issued to visitors to the building and other HMG staff, many of whom are not permanently based at Marsham street.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were issued to students of each nationality in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [300390]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the immigration statistics due to be published on 26 November. The hon. Member may also wish to refer to the annual visa statistics already published on our Visa Services website at

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Reliable information on student visa applications for 1997 is not available.

Gurkhas

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an estimate of the number of Gurkha ex-servicemen who retired prior to 1 July 1997 likely to settle in Nepal if they were to receive a pension on terms equivalent to those of the armed forces pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [300423]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* No such estimates have been made on the numbers of those opting to remain in Nepal rather than settle in the United Kingdom if, having retired from the Brigade of Gurkhas prior to 1997, they were to receive a pension on the same terms as those on the armed forces pension scheme.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to bring forward proposals for restrictions on the level of fines imposed by private vehicle immobilisation companies. [300742]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under proposals contained in the Crime and Security Bill, laid before Parliament on 20 November, we plan to amend the Private Security Industry Act 2001 to introduce a requirement for all vehicle immobilisation businesses to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority and to adhere to a strict code of practice, when working on private land. The code will include restrictions on release fees and will regulate other aspects of the practices of vehicle immobilisation businesses.

More details of the Bill can be found at the following link:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimeandsecuritybill/

Intelligence Services: European Convention on Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure compatibility between the work of those intelligence services for which the Secretary of State is responsible and the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. [300384]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Secretary is accountable to Parliament for the activities of the Security Service.

The Service, unlike the police, has no powers of arrest or detention. It has no intrinsic powers of search or seizure of property. Its functions are governed by the Security Service Act 1989. That Act together with the Intelligence Services Act 1994 and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 provides a firm statutory framework within which the Security Service operates. All work of the Service is undertaken in accordance with the law, including the European Convention of Human Rights as incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998.

Authorisations for operational activities are subject to independent oversight by the Intelligence Services, or Interception, Commissioner to ensure that any conduct is lawful, and proportionate to what is sought to be achieved by that conduct.

Security Service operational guidance is kept under regular review. Any change to that guidance is submitted to the Home Secretary for approval.

Local Authorities: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department provided to local authorities in 2009-10; how much it expects to provide in 2010-11 by *(a)* programme, *(b)* funding stream and *(c)* grant; what the nature and purpose of such funding was in 2009-10; and what mechanism was used for the allocation of funds between local authorities. [300296]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office (including UKBA) has provided the following funding to local authorities during 2009-10. Details of the grant stream, and the purpose of each are included.

			£000
Grant stream name	*Grant stream purpose*	*Budget*	*Total spend to date*
Victims and Witness Champions	The role of the champions will be to promote the needs of antisocial behaviour victims and coordinate local services to ensure victims receive the support and information they want and need.	150	0
Private Space Violence Fund	The grant stream covers a number of local initiatives to tackle domestic violence. This ranges from providing support to voluntary organisations, holding awareness raising conferences, improving data collection, and starting perpetrator programmes.	3,500	72
National Support Network	To strengthen the effectiveness of local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Community safety Partnerships (CSPs)to respond to local concerns and deliver national priorities.	1, 000	0
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant	To contribute towards the non ring fenced area based grant. It acts as an important lever for increasing the priority given to young people and drugs by drugs action teams and local authorities	15,392	0
Drugs Intervention programme	To integrate measures for directing adult drug-misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment. Payments to drug action teams	88,400	43,558

£000

Grant stream name	*Grant stream purpose*	*Budget*	*Total spend to date*
Place Based Support Fund (including vigilance grant)	To fund a strategic programme of support for local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) or Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales. Funding aims to enable partnerships to improve public confidence in the work they do and ultimately reduce crime.	2,500	213
Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF)	To provide opportunities for people to work more closely with the police and other authorities in their neighbourhoods to create safer communities. (Resource)	61,147	19,135
Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF)	To provide opportunities for people to work more closely with the police and other authorities in their neighbourhoods to create safer communities. (Capital)	18,872	9,436
NCJG Coordinator Allocation Work Priorities Allocation ASB Victims and Witnesses Allocation	Taking forward Neighbourhood Justice activities in 60 areas across the country. This includes improving the local public offer in terms of:	4,995	263
	One dialogue with the public on crime, policing and justice		
	Services delivering on their public commitments/minimum standards e.g. Policing Pledge, Victims Code, Witness Charter etc		
	Much increased public awareness of consequences for offenders, particularly Community Payback and publicising sentencing outcomes		
	Access to the Community Crime Fighters programme		
OSCT Prevent: Social Research	To fund research identified by Prevent SBSR Team as essential to the development of a sound evidence base for strategy and policy in managing extremism in prisons	31	31
OSCT Protect—Crowded Places	To reduce the vulnerability of high to medium-high sites in England and Wales	5,500	0
OSCT Prevent: Identification and Referral -Objectives 2 and 3	15 projects lead by GO'S, local authorities and voluntary organisations in support of prevent objectives 2 and 3	490	10
Local Consortia Enabling Grants	Enabling Grants L SE, SW&W, MIDS, Sc and NI, NE and NW, Yorkshire and Humberside provide support to organisations for the coordination and provision of advice, support and services for all migrants.	1, 570	785
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	UASC Grants- England, Scotland & Wales Funding provided to local authorities as required under statute to contribute towards costs incurred by each authority	177,000	66,855
Leaving Care Grants	Leaving Care Grants - Funding provided to local authorities as required under statute to contribute towards costs incurred by each authority	17,200	8,600
Treasury Invest to Save Budget (ISB)	Support for the Changing Community in Crewe - aims to co-ordinate an improved response to the needs of the migrant worker population and reduce the additional stress on service providers at a District and County level	51	9

The total expenditure to date includes payments made up to the end of September 2009. Where no expenditure to date has occurred, this will be due to a variety of reasons, including:

1. Grant stream recently agreed, therefore no payments have yet been made

2. Grant recipient has not provided evidence of expenditure incurred, therefore no payments to date occurred

The Home Office has not yet finalised expected provision (by programme, funding stream, or grant) for 2010-11 to this level of detail. However, the Home Office has announced funding for area based grant across the entire spending review, comprising:

	£
Safer Stronger Communities Fund (Resource)	61,146,931
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant	15,392,326

The Home Office adopts a variety of mechanisms by which to determine the allocation to each local authority. In relation to grants, there are the following mechanisms:

Formula based (e.g. Safer Stronger Communities Fund)—each local authority has a pre-determined allocation based upon a formula that ensures a commensurate allocation throughout the country

Bid based—all local authorities are entitled to bid for funding as per the business plan that they provide. These bids are then considered, and assessed against criteria such as value for money and allocations determined accordingly.

Funding pot availability—a specific maximum amount per grant is set, and each local authority may submit a bid within that maximum ceiling.

Fixed rate basis (e.g. UASC—Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Children)—the grant payable to local authorities is on a fixed rate (e.g. per UASC per night), with many authorities having different grant rates, according to their numbers of UASC and individual circumstances.

Fixed rate once specified thresholds exceeded (e.g. Leaving Care grant)—paid to local authorities, at a rate of £100 per week per former UASC aged over 18, after the first 25 cases have been discounted.

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has provided to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in 2009-10; and what funding it expects to provide in 2010-11. [300297]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has provided total funding allocations of £3,132,000 to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) for 2009-10.

The total amount consists of £2,132,000 core funding to the NTA for the delivery of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), and project management funding of £1,000,000 to support pilot areas within the Drug System Change Pilots programme.

Decisions about 2010-11 allocations will be made later in the year.

Source:

Home Office Accounting System

Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to undertake a review of the accreditation arrangements for institutions wishing to bring international students to the UK. [301083]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 November 2009]*: Each of our approved accreditation bodies was initially approved for a period of two years. Accreditation UK, British Accreditation Council (BAC) and Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC) are now due for re-approval. All accreditation bodies are subject to ongoing monitoring to ensure that they meet our requirements throughout the period of approval.

We have been reviewing, with Ofsted, our approval criteria. While we finalise the framework against which the three accreditation bodies will be re-assessed for approval, UKBA continues to work with each of its approved accreditation bodies to ensure standards are maintained.

Police

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consideration he has given to the use of private policing services by local authorities and residents. [300320]

Mr. Hanson: There are no official private policing services. Communities should have the confidence that the police will be there for them when they need it. Public confidence that the police and local council are dealing with the crime and antisocial behaviour that matters locally is improving (from 45 per cent in March 2008 to 50 per cent in the latest figures to June 2009).

In December 2008 we introduced the Policing Pledge in England and Wales which sets out the minimum standards of service that the public can expect to receive from the police including for response times, visibility, and access. We have also invested heavily to ensure that all neighbourhoods now have a dedicated and named Neighbourhood Policing team.

It is up to the public and local authorities to decide if they wish to spend money on private security. Private security guards have no more powers than any other citizen except when they are accredited under Community Safety Accreditation Schemes (CSAS). CSAS is a scheme which allows Chief Officers to designate limited powers to employees of organisations which contribute towards community safety and tackling antisocial behaviour (ASB) such as park wardens, train operators and private security guards. These powers enhance the contribution of people in roles that are already concerned with keeping communities safe, and mean that there are more people on the streets with powers to tackle and not tolerate ASB.

Police: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian police force staff earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300814]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally. Information on remuneration disclosure is provided by police authorities in their annual statements of accounts.

Police: Performance Standards

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the average *(a)* target and *(b)* actual police response time to violent crime in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [300289]

Mr. Hanson: The Policing Pledge, which was introduced across all police forces in England and Wales at the end of 2008, sets out the minimum standards of service that the public can expect to receive from the police including for response times. Through the Pledge, the police have committed to aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds, deploying to emergencies immediately, giving an estimated time of arrival and reaching the incident as safely and as quickly as possible. In urban areas, they aim to arrive within 15 minutes and in rural areas within 20 minutes.

The Home Office does not collect data centrally on average response times to specific crime types. However, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary recently published their report on the current standard of pledge delivery across all police forces. The report notes that

> "in responding to calls, forces generally achieve good performance but, in some very rural areas, responding in 20 minutes is challenging".

It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure delivery of the Policing Pledge in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target we have set them to improve public confidence that crime and anti-social behaviour are being tackled locally, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Police: Public Order Units

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have public order units or branches; and how many staff are working in each such unit or branch. [300230]

Mr. Hanson: All police forces in England and Wales have a resource to deal with incidents involving public order. The staffing of such units would be the responsibility of the chief officer concerned for each force.

Police: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in Sussex in each of the last five years. [301272]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the table.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer and PCSO strength[1] in Sussex, as at 31 March, 2005 to 2009

	Police officer	Full-time equivalent PCSO
2009	3,196	399
2008	3,075	372
2007	3,113	352
2006	3,127	257
2005	3,094	228

[1] Figures include police officers and PCSOs on career break or maternity/paternity leave.

Safer Schools Partnerships

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of safer schools partnerships; and how many such partnerships are structured on the basis of a full-time officer based within a secondary school or college. [300298]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A survey of the number of Safer School Partnerships (SSPs) in England was carried out this summer following publication of guidance in May 2009 which tightened the definition of an SSP. The results of this survey are currently being verified by the Association of Chief Police Officers and therefore are not yet available.

Information on how many partnerships are structured on the basis of a full-time officer is not collected centrally.

Sponsor Register

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which institutions *(a)* have had an application to join the sponsor register refused and *(b)* have been removed from the register of licensed sponsors since 31 March 2009. [301084]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* This question cannot be answered due to the commercial sensitivity of the information requested.

The number of institutions that have had an application to join the sponsor register refused between 31 March 2009 and 23 November 2009 is 1,080.

The number of sponsors removed from the sponsor register between 31 March 2009 and 23 November 2009 is 30.

Figures are rounded to nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Student Visitors

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria students who are travelling to the UK to study for a period of less than 26 weeks must meet to be permitted to enter the UK under the student visitor route as an alternative to entering under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system. [301661]

Mr. Woolas: The criteria for those wishing to seek entry as a student visitor are set out in paragraph 56K of the Immigration Rules and paragraph 2.14 of the Immigration Directorate Instructions. This category allows those who wish to come to the United Kingdom as a visitor to undertake a short period of study which will be completed within the period of their leave. In order to qualify student visitors must be coming to an institution that is either the holder of a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points based system or accredited by a UKBA approved accreditation body. Those attending an overseas higher education institution that offer part of their programmes in the United Kingdom may also seek entry under this route providing the overseas institution hold their own national accreditation and offer programmes that are of an equivalent level to a United Kingdom degree.

Student visitors are not permitted to undertake paid or unpaid work placements as part of the course, nor are they permitted to take part-time employment. Six months is the maximum time a student visitor may stay in the United Kingdom and applications for either leave to enter or remain beyond that period would fall to be refused.

Students Visas

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visa applications have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in Pakistan since the introduction of the Tier 4 immigration rules; and what the average time from submission of application to decision has been in each month since the rules were introduced. [301085]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* As of 30 September, the number of student visa applications lodged in Pakistan under Tier 4 of the Points Based System that had been *(a)* successful and *(b)* refused were 5,906 and 3,517, respectively.

Information about the performance of our visa application centres against target visa application processing times in each quarter is available on our Visa Services website:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Processing times in Islamabad for Tier 4 applications has been as follows:

Processing time—tier four application: Islamabad

		Percentage
	15 days	30 days
April to June 2009	58	95
July to September 2009	92	93

Terrorism Act 2000

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* stopped, *(b)* detained and *(c)* arrested under Schedule 7 (Port and Border Controls) to the Terrorism Act 2000 since 2004; and how many of those were subsequently convicted of a terrorist offence. [301036]

Mr. Hanson: The use of Schedule 7 powers of examination is an important tool in countering terrorism and those who would seek to do harm to the UK and its interests. Terrorists often need to travel across borders to plan, prepare and initiate their acts and these powers are essential in identifying those individuals.

Examinations for longer than one hour are recorded centrally; there were over 10,400 examinations in the period between 1 January 2004 and 30 September 2009.

Of these 1,110 persons were detained under the examining officer powers in Schedule 7 and 8 for the same period.

There were 99 arrests of persons examined under Schedule 7 during this period for terrorism related offences, of which 17 were initially charged in relation to offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 and 31 were charged with other terrorist related offences.

Of those charges there were 43 convictions. Some individuals will have been charged with more than one offence or had a charge varied later on advice from the Crown Prosecution Service.

The powers contained in Schedule 7 are kept under scrutiny by the noble Lord Carlile of Berriew, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation. Lord Carlile has commented and made recommendations as to the use of these powers but has consistently found the powers to be necessary and proportionate.

UK Border Agency

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to paragraph 27 of the letter of 19 October 2009 from the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to the Home Affairs Committee, which areas of business have been asked to review their files; what advice has been given to businesses in each such area on such reviews; in how many cases in each area of business no record has been found of an individual having left the country in the circumstances set out in the letter; and what assessment he has made of the findings of such reviews. [300411]

Mr. Woolas: Lin Homer, chief executive of the UK Border Agency, will update the Home Affairs Select Committee in January 2010 with further information on the progress on the 40,000 older, archived non-asylum files referred to in the last update.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the letter of 19 October 2009 from the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to the Home Affairs Select Committee, what estimate has been made of the number of non-archived non-asylum cases in respect of which an application has been dealt with but where there is no formal record of an individual having left the country; what criteria are used in the archiving of such files; and if he will make a statement. [300412]

Mr. Woolas: Lin Homer, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency, will update the Home Affairs Select Committee in January 2010 with further information on the progress on the 40,000 older, archived non-asylum files, which are files and not people, referred to in the last update.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids UK Border Agency officials conducted in each region in 2008. [300990]

Mr. Woolas: In 2008, the UK Border Agency carried out the following numbers of enforcement operations in each region:

	Number
London and South East	6,968
Midlands and East of England	2,220
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	2,015
North West	1,260
Scotland and Northern Ireland	948
Wales and South West	1,300
Total	14,711

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Warehouse Parties

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of illegal raves which have taken place in the Milton Keynes local authority area in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* crimes and *(b)* accidents arising from such events were reported in that period. [300717]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Thames Valley police have informed me that there have been three events which they classified as illegal raves over the last four years and that no crimes were reported or investigated regarding offences of damage or assault at these events. Several arrests were made for drugs related offences. The police do not hold information on accidents.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equalities and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission concerning transparency in respect of *(a)* opening the Commission's board meetings to the public and *(b)* publication of the Commissioners' register of interests; and if she will make a statement. [301005]

Maria Eagle: Transparency and openness are matters of great importance to the Equality and Human Rights Commission Board. This reflected in their new Governance Framework adopted earlier this year. Commissioners have already agreed to consider at their board meeting in December proposals for increasing its accessibility to the public and for making its register of interests publicly available.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Carers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many households in North East Milton Keynes constituency a child under the age of 18 years fulfils the role of a carer for a disabled parent. [300716]

Dawn Primarolo: Precise local and national data on the number of children under the age of 18 years caring for a disabled parent is not collected centrally.

Class Sizes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Lewes constituency, (ii) Sussex and (iii) England and Wales was in each year since 1997. [301282]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information available is shown in the table.

Maintained primary and state funded secondary[1] schools—Classes as taught[2] [3]—Years: position in January in each year coverage—England

		1998	*2001*	*2005*	*2009*
Maintained primary schools:					
Lewes	Average class size	27.9	27.7	26.0	26.9
	Total number of classes	215	214	215	200
	Total number of pupils	6,000	5,920	5,590	5,380
East Sussex	Average class size	28.3	28.2	27.6	27.2
	Total number of classes	1,260	1,250	1,236	1,184
	Total number of pupils	35,660	35,240	34,160	32,200
England	Average class size	27.7	26.7	26.2	26.2
	Total number of classes	146,425	150,583	146,860	142,920
	Total number of pupils	4,054,800	4,014,110	3,851,810	3,746,270
All state funded secondary schools:					
Lewes	Average class size	21.6	22.9	23.2	23.5
	Total number of classes	202	226	205	183
	Total number of pupils	4,360	5,170	4,760	4,300
East Sussex	Average class size	21.4	22.3	21.8	21.6
	Total number of classes	1,103	1,178	1,243	1,202
	Total number of pupils	23,610	26,250	27,110	25,960
England	Average class size	21.7	22.0	21.6	20.6
	Total number of classes	131,597	138,021	144,940	148,410
	Total number of pupils	2,859,620	3,038,760	3,137,030	3,064,190

[1] Includes CTCs and Academies.

[2] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

3. Includes middle schools as deemed.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300187]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since the start of the current contract for provision on 1 April 2009 (and thus from when figures are available) the proportions of UK production of the categories in question up to 31 October 2009 are:

		Percentage
(a)	Lamb	34.02
(b)	Beef	86.44
(c)	Chicken	75.29
(d)	Pork	82.53
(e)	Turkey	100.00
(f)	Other meats	[1]8.66
(g)	Fresh fruit and vegetables	40.60

[1] Including sausages and burgers.

It is not possible to provide separate figures for fruit and vegetables.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants since February 2009. [301000]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has spent a total of £5,265 on potted plants since February 2009. There has been nil expenditure on cut flowers during this period.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which qualifications have been accredited for the 2009-10 academic year; if he will estimate for each qualification the proportion of the final mark which is to be based on teacher assessment; and if he will make a statement. [300700]

Mr. Coaker: The National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ) lists all currently accredited qualifications from entry level to level 8. As of 19 November 2009, 9,748 qualifications are listed. Further details of these qualifications can be found online:

http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/index.asp

The Section 96 page of the DCSF website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/section96

provides a link to the list of qualifications the Secretary of State has approved to be delivered in maintained schools, and for under 19-year olds in further and work-based education and training. Approximately 7,500 qualifications are currently listed. The methods of assessment vary according to the qualification and could only be provided for each qualification at disproportionate cost.

History: Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of students in year nine who were not taught history in that year in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* the latest period for whieh figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300696]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: History is a statutory subject for all pupils to the end of key stage 3, normally school year nine. We do not have an estimate of the proportion of students in year nine not taught history.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which sport has the highest rate of participation for females in schools. [300772]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's annual PE and Sport Survey collects data from maintained schools in England and relate to the range and type of sporting activities that schools provide for their pupils. However, at the moment, it does not break this down by pupils' gender. We are proposing to make changes to the survey from next year which will enable us to show this information broken down by gender.

Social Services: Haringey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken in response to the Ofsted joint area review of Haringey council's children's services held in July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [300995]

Dawn Prima[illegible] *[illegible]ing answer 23 November 2009]:* In June 2009 O[illegible]rried out a further inspection of Haringey's safeguarding services to assess progress following the joint area review (JAR) report of December 2008. Ofsted's subsequent report made clear that the leadership and management team in Haringey had made progress in a number of important areas, but it highlighted issues relating to front line practice that needed prioritising. The Secretary of State met with the leadership of the council to discuss the report and subsequently wrote to the council on 3 July. In his letter to the council, he made clear that Haringey must prioritise improving standards of front-line practice and supervision and that Haringey's plans must be kept under vigilant review with progress accelerated to keep children safe. He explained that Peter Lewis' monthly reports, alongside the rigorous monitoring the Department has put in place and the independent scrutiny of the LSCB, would be used to ensure that all partners keep focused on the priorities identified in Ofsted's report. He has asked Ofsted to conduct a further progress inspection before the end of January 2010, at which point he will decide whether any further action is needed to keep children safe in Haringey.

Teachers: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid in salary and wage costs for teachers and teaching staff in maintained schools in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the proportion paid to such staff who earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300843]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on how much was paid in salary and wage costs for teachers and teaching staff in maintained schools in 2007-08 for England was £17,521,117,000. The Department estimates that there were approximately 28,000 teachers earning more than £50,000 per annum in England costing in total £1,665,021,000. This makes up 9.5 per cent. of the total spend on teaching staff.

Notes:

1. The source of the salary information is the Database of Teacher Records (DTR) and is provisional.

2. Overall teacher numbers from the Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g were apportioned by the information from the DTR to provide the estimate of the numbers of teachers receiving these salaries and the salaries given by multiplying this by the average salary over £50,000 from the DTR.

3. The total spend on teaching staff is taken from the Section 52 Outturn statements 2007-08.

4. It includes teachers employed directly by the school; including supernumerary/peripatetic teachers on short-term contracts and covers expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation plus threshold payments and other payments relating to teacher pay reforms.

5. These figures are in cash and rounded to nearest £1,000.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burundi: Overseas Aid

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what level of support, and in which sectors, his Department intends to provide to Burundi in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [300226]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently providing £10 million a year to Burundi. Our current strategy for support to the country covers the period from 2008 to 2011. Because Burundi is still recovering from 13 years of conflict, DFID support is focused on helping the country rebuild its health, education and justice systems. The budget allocation is:

£6 million for the social sectors including £4 million for essential medicine. DFID is also supporting our partners in building schools, providing free textbooks and improving the standard of secondary education.

£2 million for justice to build accountable systems for public financial management and prepare for free and fair elections in 2010. This includes providing legal aid to vulnerable citizens and raising awareness about governance issues.

£2 million for humanitarian support to care for returning refugees, orphans and vulnerable children.

In 2010 DFID will review this and future support to the country with the Government of Burundi and other partners. Future support will also be made in light of the broader UK Government Corporate Spending Review and planning for the period 2011 to 2013.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300871]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not plan to host any Christmas parties in 2009.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse such flights were taken. [300535]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

All travel by civil servants at the Department for International Development (DFID) is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the "Civil Service Management Code" and staff handbooks.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300204]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no plans at present to sell any of its property, whether in the UK or overseas between 2009-10 and 2013-14.

DFID may, however, dispose of assets such as vehicles or equipment as these reach the end of their useful lives. In such cases, disposals will be immaterial (substantially written down against book value) and carried out in line with DFID procedures. We are unable to provide budgeted figures without incurring disproportionate cost, as this information is not held centrally.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300932]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to deliver savings in administrative costs of £4 million in 2008-09, £8 million in 2009-10 and £12 million in 2010-11, including through Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) related projects. This commitment is part of DFID's overall value for money (VFM) programme.

Delivery against 2008-09 targets was reported in DFID's 2009 annual report. The report is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/Annual-Report-2009/

A further progress report will be included in the forthcoming autumn performance report.

DFID is planning further efficiency savings in areas identified by the OEP, which will contribute to the £9 billion to be delivered across Government in the next spending review period.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300184]

Mr. Michael Foster: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

The report indicates that overall proportion of domestically produced food procured by the Department for International Development (DFID) in 2007-08 was 55 per cent. DFID actively encourages the provision of fair trade or other ethically trading standards produced items which will normally be imported.

DEFRA intends to publish the report covering the year from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 shortly.

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose of legal representation and advice sought by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies was in each year since May 1997. [300329]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development uses a number of sources of legal expertise in both the UK and overseas. Records are available for full expenditure only from 2003-04. DFID does not maintain central records of the purpose of each piece of legal representation and advice.

Expenditure

	Cost (£)
2003-04	855,996
2004-05	721,927
2005-06	650,615
2006-07	522,004
2007-08	670,057
2008-09	696,323

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300625]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently has one contract let centrally that includes a provision for bonuses. DFID's contract for security guarding and reception services with ISS Pegasus includes a provision for team based performance incentives for their 13 staff. £500 has been paid to each staff member in each of the last two years.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300626]

Mr. Michael Foster: No bonuses or incentives have been paid to such consultants or contractors over the last three years.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300894]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) senior civil service (SCS) members are eligible for a non-consolidated performance award. Awards are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. In considering SCS members for an award, line managers are asked to take into account:

performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets

total delivery record over the year

relative stretch (ie the challenge of the job compared to that of others)

response to unforeseen events that affected the performance agreement.

Awards are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against the pre-determined criteria above and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The annual size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot for SCS is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB).

The following table contains, for the last two financial years: (i) the number of SCS who received an award; (ii) the percentage of all SCS who received an award; (iii) the largest single payment; and (iv) the total value of awards made.

	Financial year[1]	
	2008-09	*2009-10*
Number of SCS who received an award	71	68
Percentage of total SCS who received an award	73.9	70.1
Largest single award (£)	22,700	15,000
Total SCS awards (£)	641,510	634,150

Staff in grades below the SCS (HCS) are eligible for a non-consolidated performance award. Awards are intended to reward both the delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year and demonstration of DFID's values.

The following table contains, for the last two financial years: (i) the number of HCS who received an award; (ii) the percentage of all HCS who received an award; (iii) the largest single payment; and (iv) the total value of awards made.

	Financial year[1]	
	2008-09[2]	*2009-10*
Number of HCS who received an award	0	1,312
Percentage of total HCS who received an award	0	85.0
Largest single award (£)	0	750
Total HCS awards (£)	0	742,515

[1] Payments made are for the financial year indicated but relate to performance achieved in the previous reporting year.

[2] DFID's reward arrangements did not allow for the payment of any performance related awards in the 2008-09 financial year to staff below the senior civil service.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for a senior civil servant in his Department in each of the last five years. [301598]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) senior civil service (SCS) members are eligible for a non-consolidated performance award. Awards are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. In considering SCS members for an award, line managers are asked to take into account:

performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets;

total delivery record over the year

relative stretch (ie the challenge of the job compared to that of others)

response to unforeseen events that affected the performance agreement

Awards are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against the pre-determined criteria above and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The annual size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB).

The table shows the average (median) award and the highest single award in each of the last five financial years.

£

Financial year[1]	*Average (median) award*	*Highest single award*
2005-06	3,750	5,500
2006-07	4,500	8,000
2007-08	5,750	12,500
2008-09	6,350	22,700
2009-10	7,357	15,000

[1] Payments made are for the financial year indicated but relate to performance achieved in the previous reporting year.

Developing Countries: Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on the economies of his Department's partner countries of their achievement of equal access for girls to secondary education. [301041]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) produced an analysis of the role of skills in economic growth in 2008. This drew attention to the gender differences in the complex relationship between levels of education and skills and economic growth. More evidence at a country level is needed in this area, but this initial work suggested that the rates of return for higher levels of female education were particularly significant to economic growth. The World Bank found that every 1 per cent. increase in the level of women's education generates an additional 3 per cent. in economic growth. Importantly, failure to achieve gender parity at post-primary levels could be a bottle neck in the growth of the economies of our partner countries.

DFID currently funds a five-year research programme co-ordinated by the University of Cambridge worth £2.5 million which is currently undertaking analysis of the different rates of return on various levels of education which includes looking at gender differences.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to meet the target of ensuring that girls have equal access to secondary education in all his Department's partner countries by 2015. [301042]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) for universal primary education and gender parity by 2015. DFID is spending at least £8.5 billion between 2006 and 2015 in support of education in developing countries. Through this long-term commitment we are supporting poor countries to invest in quality basic education, including lower secondary, to ensure that all girls and boys attain the fundamental skills they need to participate in social and economic life.

For example, DFID is currently helping the Government of India to prepare its plans for expanding enrolments at secondary education from 53 per cent. to 70 per cent. over the next three years. The majority of these gains in enrolment will be girls. A raft of interventions are proposed for achieving this, including girls' scholarships and bursaries, free uniforms, textbooks and bicycles for girls as well as free hostels and residential schools for the poorest girls. Attention to equity, particularly in terms of eliminating gender disparities is now a key part of DFID policy dialogue on and support for the development of secondary education in India.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of integration between the HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights aspects of programmes funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria to which his Department contributes. [301031]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Global Fund has recently been subject to a rigorous five year independent evaluation including a study on health impact. The Department for International Development has engaged with this evaluation exerciseand has taken note of its assessment of the level of integration between the HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights aspects of programmes funded by the Global Fund.

The evaluation contained a review of the HIV/AIDS portfolio including access to HIV testing, counselling, prevention of mother-child transmission (PMTCT), and preventative measures (condom distribution and education materials). A key recommendation is to strengthen prevention programmes. The study can be accessed on:

www.theglobalfund.org

Landmines

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of mine clearing contracts let by his Department have been granted to *(a)* The Halo Trust and *(b)* the Mines Advisory Group in the last two years; and in which locations. [300242]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes details of all contracts let on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Procurement/Contracts-let/

Remittances

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries in receipt of development aid from his Department have experienced a reduction in the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of migrant remittances in the last three years; and what steps his Department takes to establish the effects of such remittances on (i) the economy of the recipient country and (ii) the pattern of his Department's distribution of development aid. [300386]

Mr. Thomas: Based on the most recent World Bank data for the period 2006-08, no countries receiving developmental aid from the Department for International Development (DFID) have experienced a reduction in the number or monetary value of migrant remittances in the last three years. We will continue to monitor this as new data become available.

DFID Country Offices monitor remittance flows as part of their routine macroeconomic surveillance. Decisions on where UK bilateral aid is spent are initially guided by three principles: levels of Gross National Income (GNI) per person; population size; and confidence on whether the aid resources will be used effectively. As remittances are part of the GNI calculation, they are captured in decisions about the allocation of DFID's aid.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of his Department's proposed activities in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [300540]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) will provide £60 million in development aid to support Zimbabwe this financial year which will be used to:

fight HIV by delivering Anti-Retroviral Treatment to 58,000 people

improve access to clean water and sanitation for over 2 million people

establish 5,000 community health groups to help rural populations prepare for and respond to future disease epidemics

provide essential medicines to approximately 1,300 primary care clinics and rural hospitals

provide 10,000 urban poor and vulnerable households with 350 metric tonnes of food every month and 2,000 rural and urban poor households with cash transfers every month

provide textbooks to 5,300 primary schools

All our assistance is provided through trusted partners, including the United Nations and non-governmental organisations. We do not pass funds directly to the Government of Zimbabwe or through government financial systems, (including through the Reserve Bank).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* he and other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials of his Department (i) corresponded with, (ii) telephoned and *(c)* met officials of EU institutions between April 2008 and April 2009 regarding proposals to regulate the European alternative investment fund management industry. [301587]

Ian Lucas: The proposal for a directive on alternative investment fund managers is the policy responsibility of the Treasury. The Government are fully engaged in negotiations with the European Union institutions on this and other key issues.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300881]

Mr. McFadden: This Department is not planning to host any Christmas parties in 2009.

Internal Christmas parties for officials within the Department will be funded by the staff themselves.

Company Liquidations

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many company liquidations there were in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region in (i) the fourth quarter of 2008 and (ii) each quarter since. [301771]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales.

Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what family-friendly working policies his Department and its predecessors have implemented in each of the last 10 years. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

1999

Parental leave: New right introduced. Parents with one year's continuous service entitled to 13 weeks' unpaid leave up to the child's fifth birthday for children born or placed for adoption on or after 15 December 1999.

Time off for dependants: all employees entitled to a reasonable amount of unpaid time off work to deal with certain emergencies involving a dependant.

2000

Maternity leave: Maternity leave extended so that all employed women became entitled to 18 weeks' ordinary maternity leave. Women with one year's service entitled to additional maternity leave up to 29 weeks after baby's birth. Benefited women whose babies were due on or after 30 April 2000.

Maternity pay: Maternity allowance extended to women earning £30 per week.

2001

Parental leave: right extended to parents of all children under five on 15 December 1999; period of parental leave extended to 18 weeks for parents of disabled children.

2003

Maternity leave: ordinary maternity leave extended to 26 weeks. Additional maternity leave extended to 26 weeks following on from ordinary maternity leave. Qualifying service for additional maternity leave reduced to 26 weeks.

Maternity pay: Statutory maternity pay and maternity allowance extended to 26 weeks.

Paternity leave: fathers/partners of pregnant women entitled to two weeks leave with statutory paternity pay at the same rate as statutory maternity pay.

Adoption leave: adopters entitled to 52 weeks' leave with statutory adoption pay at the same rate as statutory maternity pay.

Right to request flexible working: parents with caring responsibilities for children under six (or 18, if disabled) entitled to request flexible working pattern from employers.

2006

Maternity leave: Qualifying service for additional maternity leave removed.

Pay: Payment period of statutory maternity pay, statutory adoption pay and maternity allowance extended to 39 weeks.

Encouraging communication: women and employers can make reasonable contact during maternity leave; keeping in touch days introduced, so women and employers can agree that women will work up to 10 day during maternity leave without losing any pay or ending her leave.

Guidance: Pregnancy and Work leaflet set out key information for women and employers; online tools help women and employers understand rights/responsibilities.

Support for employers: notice period for women changing plans for return from maternity leave extended from four to eight weeks; administration of SMP, SAP and SPP simplified.

2007

Right to request flexible working: extended to carers of certain adults from April 2007.

2008

Contractual benefits during maternity leave: entitlement to receive contractual benefits extended so that mothers entitled to non-paid rights or other work-related benefits throughout the 26 weeks of additional maternity leave.

2009

Right to request flexible working: extended to those with parental responsibility of children aged 16 and under.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* speechwriters, *(b)* press officers and *(c)* secretaries are assigned to work for each other Minister in his Department. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has one speechwriter, and a Strategic Adviser who also works on speeches. The remaining nine Ministers are assisted by four speechwriters.

One press officer is specifically assigned to work for the Secretary of State. Other press officers look after policy areas which are within ministerial portfolio areas but are not assigned to individual Ministers. The Secretary of State has a Principal Private Secretary, five Private Secretaries and two Diary Secretaries. Other Ministers each have a Private Secretary, a Diary Secretary (based in BIS or in the other Government Department in which the Minister jointly works) and one or more Assistant Private Secretaries depending on their portfolios.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301178]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham, (Paul Clark) on 16 July, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2008-09; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [301011]

Mr. McFadden: BIS was formed through a MOG change that occurred in June. The Department was created by merging Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). This means that BIS in its current form did not exist in 2008-09 and therefore did not make any bonus payments as BIS.

The two Departments that were merged to create BIS spent the following:

Department	No. of people that received an Annual Performance bonus in 2008-09	The proportion of people that received an Annual Bonus in 2008-09 (%)	No. of people that received an "In year" bonus in 2008-09	The proportion of people that received an "In year" bonus in 2008-09 (%)	The total amount of money spent by the department on bonuses in 2008-09 (£)	The largest single payment issued by the department in 2008-09 (£)
BERR	1,025	35	1,218	42	2,827,223	16,500
DIUS	216	24	201	22	535,006	20,000

Notes:

[1] In year reward schemes include special bonuses and non pay rewards that are awarded for excellent performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of an in year performance bonus may also have received an annual performance award.

[2] Annual Performance Awards paid to Highly Successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants since its creation. [301352]

Mr. McFadden: Since its creation in June 2009, this Department's Estates section has spent £60, excluding VAT, on a flower display for its Remembrance Day ceremony at 1 Victoria Street. In addition, £9,780 has been spent on plant displays across seven BIS managed buildings in London, Sheffield and Glasgow in office and reception areas. This spend covers the hire and maintenance of all internal plant displays and exterior maintenance.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what weight of paper his Department has recycled since June 2009. [300773]

Mr. McFadden: Between June and 31 October, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills recycled a total weight of 189,740 kgs of paper.

Products: Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any BSI Kitemarked flood resilient products are available to the consumer. [300870]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

A list of companies that hold a Kitemark for flood protection products can be found via the BSI website at

www.kitemark.com

Some products covered by the Kitemark for flood protection products may be available as consumer items but most are installed by the manufacturer or an approved installer. This ensures quality control of installation and that consumers receive instruction on the deployment and maintenance of the products.

The National Flood Forum maintains a directory of flood protection products and services called 'Blue Pages'. Companies, if entitled to do so, can apply to be included in the list of those that can display the Kitemark logo. The National Flood Forum does not endorse any products or approve the advertising claims in the listing. It is for the consumer to verify that the Kitemark applies to the particular product they wish to purchase.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what tests are undertaken to ensure that flood resilient products are fit for purpose; and what redress to the consumer is available in circumstances in which such a product fails to prevent flooding. [300871]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Products that obtain the Kitemark for flood protection products must meet one of the four parts of the PAS 1188 test specification. The four parts are:

PAS 1188-1:2009. Flood protection products. Specification. Part 1: Building aperture products.

> This applies to flood protection products used in the temporary sealing of building apertures and entrances to properties. A building aperture is an opening in the structure of a building which allows access and egress and/or ventilation to the building.

PAS 1188-2:2009 Flood protection products. Specification. Part 2: Temporary products.

> A temporary flood protection product is one that is wholly installed during or following warning of a flood event and removed completely when water levels have receded. It is for use away from buildings but may be sealed against structures or buildings at section ends.

PAS 1188-3:2009 Flood protection products. Specification. Part 3: Building skirt systems.

> Building skirt systems are a combination of materials and components curtaining a building and used to limit or restrict the flow of water entering the building at or above ground level.

PAS 1188-4:2009 Flood protection products. Specification. Part 4: Demountable products.

> A demountable flood protection product is one that is capable of being removed and reinstalled on permanent mountings. It is for use away from buildings and may be sealed against structures or buildings at section ends.

Some products covered by the Kitemark for flood protection products may be available as consumer items but most are installed by the manufacturer or an approved installer. This ensures quality control of installation and that consumers receive instruction on the deployment and maintenance of the products.

The level of redress would be set out in the contract between the consumer and the supplier.

Students: Loans

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students applied for loans through Student Finance England for the academic year 2009-10; how many students were waiting for student loan payments on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company has released figures to show current levels of applications, processing and payment of student support in England for the 2009/10 academic year on its website. I am advised that SLC is still receiving several thousand new applications each week.

JUSTICE

Ashwell Prison

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 262-63W, on Ashwell Prison, when he expects *(a)* the police investigation regarding the incident at HM Prison Ashwell in April 2009 and *(b)* the strategic review of HM Prison Ashwell to be completed. [illegible]

Mr. Straw: The police investigation into the serious incident at HMP Ashwell is a matter for Leicestershire police. I understand that their investigation is continuing.

A strategic review of Ashwell is well under way and I will report to the House once further decisions have been taken.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300931]

Mr. Wills: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) published findings in April 2009 that identified potential savings of around £6 billion a year by 2010-11 and a further £9 billion of savings achievable by 2013-14 from across Government. At Budget 2009, the MOJ agreed an additional £70 million savings in addition to the £1 billion savings agreed at the start of the comprehensive spending review period.

The MOJ is making good progress implementing active programmes covering all of the OEP areas. These projects typically include the Department's agencies within their scope:

> In August 2009, the MOJ established a single ICT function, bringing together three existing ICT organisations:
>
> eDelivery Group, covering areas including MOJ HQ, HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service;
>
> NOMS agency ICT
>
> The OCJR Modernising Technology Unit
>
> The MOJ has agreed an estates strategy to rationalise the estate it inherited on its creation and deliver significant financial, sustainability and effectiveness gains. The outline business case for the Estates Transformation Programme was signed off by the Estates Transformation Board in August 2009.
>
> A detailed strategy for the MOJ procurement function called Procurement Success has been developed and signed off by the MOJ Corporate Management Board. The Procurement Success programme strategy was approved by the Board on in November 2008.
>
> An outline business case for a new MOJ Shared Services programme which is designed to achieve the MOJ wide shared service vision for finance and human resources transactional services has also been signed off by the MOJ Corporate Management Board. The original business case was signed off by the MOJ Investment Committee in October and the full business case is scheduled to go before the January MOJ Corporate Management Board.

While these initiatives build on previous related work, full year savings are planned to be realised from 2010-11 through to 2013-14.

It is planned that the MOJ contribution to OEP savings by 2013-14 will be announced in the forthcoming pre-Budget report (PBR).

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since his Department was established; and for what purposes such professional services have been commissioned. [300582]

Mr. Wills: Expenditure on external legal advice and representation is interpreted as the cost of services provided by counsel and solicitors in private practice. It excludes advice from in house legal advisers or Treasury Solicitors. External lawyers are used mainly where in-house resources are not available to deal with commercial contracts and special projects or where there are novel or complex issues where it is considered that a second opinion is required.

Expenditure incurred on external legal advice and representation by the Department and its executive agencies, excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), since the Ministry of Justice was established is as follows:

	£000
2008-09	1,764
2007-08	2,297

The accounting records for NOMS do not separately identify expenditure on external legal services. Identification of external fees would involve examination of numerous locally held records and could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Prisons

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to make the use of body orifice security scanner chairs mandatory for *(a)* visitors and *(b)* staff members entering a prison in England and Wales. [300795]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has not mandated how body orifice security scanner (BOSS) chairs must be used and currently has no plans to do so. As is the case for many searching technologies and techniques, the decision on how to use the BOSS chairs is for individual governors to make, and will depend on their local circumstances, including their existing local searching strategies. The relevant Prison Service Instruction says:

> 'The frequency of searches using the BOSS and policies for its use are for local discretion'

and makes it clear that this can include using the BOSS chair to search staff and visitors. Searching strategies and levels of searches are based on a number of factors, including local resources and intelligence. The recently published Mobile Phones Good Practice Guide also provides specific advice on tackling the smuggling of mobile phones by staff and visitors.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of alcohol being *(a)* brought into and *(b)* brewed in prison there have been in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [300807]

Maria Eagle: Finds of alcohol within prisons are treated as a miscellaneous incident and recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System. These incidents are in a format that cannot readily be interrogated electronically. To provide the information requested would involve the manual inspection of more than 100,000 incident records which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

NOMS has in place a strategy to reduce both the supply and the demand for alcohol with a comprehensive range of security measures and searching techniques to detect items of contraband, including alcohol, and prevent smuggling into establishments. It is a criminal offence to convey alcohol into prison and prisoners caught in possession of alcohol within prison will face disciplinary action. Alcohol consumption is a cause of criminality in society and many prisons have programmes in place to assist prisoners to lessen their dependence on alcohol.

Females: Prisoners

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prisoners were held *(a)* under 30, *(b)* under 50, *(c)* under 100 and *(d)* over 100 miles from their home in each of the last 10 years. [300953]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the total number of females held in prisons that were between 0 and 30 miles; 30 to 50 miles; 50 to 100 miles; and over 100 miles from their home area in each of the last five years. Data prior to 2005 are not available in the format requested.

The data in the table include those who were sentenced and on remand and relate to adults, young offenders and juveniles.

	Up to 30 miles	*30-50 miles*	*50-100 miles*	*Over 100 miles*	*Total*
September 2005	1,750	948	992	688	4,378
September 2006	1,628	960	1,203	809	4,600
September 2007	1,684	753	1,100	852	4,389
September 2008	1,667	819	1,116	815	4,417
May 2009	1,680	858	981	753	4,272

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. Approximately 60 per cent. of prisoners (both male and female) are shown to have given a recognised address.

If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address. Figures have been scaled to match the overall female population.

HM Courts Service: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what progress has been made towards developing a bilingual version of the Libra IT system; and if he will make a statement; [301482]

(2) how much *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is expected to be spent on developing a bilingual version of the Libra IT system; and if he will make a statement. [301485]

Bridget Prentice: The bilingual version of the Libra IT system was successfully released in all magistrates' courts in Wales on 13 September 2009, as planned.

The cost of developing the Libra bilingual solution was approximately £4 million, in line with the estimate provided to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) in January 2009. This figure represents costs for application development, it does not include support costs, which are ongoing for the life of the application.

No further development costs will be incurred for the bilingual solution. Support costs for the solution are included in the overall support costs for the Libra application.

HMP Liverpool

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the operation of HMP Liverpool of the prison officers strike at that prison on 17 and 18 November 2009. [300950]

Mr. Straw: The industrial action at HMP Liverpool on 17 and 18 November led to reduced staffing levels at the prison, with a resulting adverse impact on the prison regime. This included the cancellation of visits for prisoners, no prisoners being sent to court directly from HMP Liverpool, only very limited regime activities operating, and the deployment of police to patrol the perimeter and picket line. The industrial action was unjustified, and unlawful, contrary to the provisions of s.127 of the Criminal Justice and part 2 order Act 1994, as amended.

Legal Aid: Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of legal aid in respect of an asylum case. [301473]

Bridget Prentice: Legal aid in asylum matters covers a variety of work including initial advice and legal representation at a tribunal and in judicial review.

The following table shows the average cost of an asylum case where the bill was paid during the year 2008-09.

	Average cost (£)
Initial advice only	610
Advice and representation at a tribunal	1,670

The average cost of legal aid for judicial reviews in immigration and asylum matters during 2008-09 was £2,480. (The cost for asylum judicial reviews cannot be disaggregated from the figures for both immigration and asylum.)

Mentally Ill: Health Services

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total construction cost was of the three most recently completed *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high security mental health units in England and Wales, excluding the cost of the land purchased; how many beds were provided by each such unit; and on what date construction commenced in each case. [300799]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the three most recent mental health capital investment schemes approved by the Department is given in the following table. The further details requested can only be obtained from the business cases which would incur disproportionate cost. Details of capital investment schemes below the Department's delegated limit for approval are not held centrally.

Three most recent capital investment schemes approved by the Department

Name	*Capital cost (£ million)*	*Build start*	*Open date*	
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	36	9 October 2007	10 June 2009	Reprovision of mental health services
South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	32	5 October 2007	7 May 2009	Medium and low security mental health unit on Runwell hospital site
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	19	23 December 2004	7 April 2008	Elderly and mental health units

Offenders: Mentally Ill

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the relative likelihood of a prisoner identified as having mental health problems on entry to prison reoffending on release, compared with a prisoner who was not originally assessed as mentally ill. [300797]

Claire Ward: There is no estimate at present. However, we are carrying out a longitudinal study of prisoners, Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR). This is designed to enhance our knowledge of the extent to which various factors relating to prisoners, including mental health problems, are linked with reoffending.

An initial report on SPCR, focusing simply on prisoner characteristics, including mental health, has been published by the Ministry of Justice, in 2008. This carries the title: The Problems and Needs of Newly Sentenced Prisoners: Results from a National Survey. Ministry of Justice Research Series 16/08 (2008).

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-2008.htm

Prison Accommodation

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many adult prisoners who were sentenced to custody in an adult prison in each year since 1997 had already served sentences for previous convictions in *(a)* a secure training centre and *(b)* a young offender institution. [300801]

Maria Eagle: The available information is shown in the following table.

Adult offenders receiving custodial sentences for indictable offence by the number of previous custodial sentences, 2000-07

	Percentage and number of offenders							
Number of previous custodial sentences	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
0	34	34	32	30	31	32	33	34
1	14	14	13	13	12	12	12	12
2	10	10	10	9	9	9	8	8
3+	41	42	45	48	47	48	47	46
All adult offenders (100%)	67,189	67,776	72,965	73,017	74,037	71,049	69,709	69,739

This table has been taken from data published in Chapter 6 of Sentencing Statistics 2007, available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The table shows the breakdown of how many previous custodial sentences adult offenders had received and covers all types of previous custodial sentences. Information about where the previous custodial sentences were served is not held in the data set used to produce the published tables. It is therefore not possible to identify how many previous custodial sentences had been served at secure training centres or young offender institutions.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Prison Performance Tables

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department produces prison performance tables with more precise rankings, data and detail than the Prison Quarterly Ratings published on his Departmental website. [300945]

Maria Eagle: Formerly prisons were ranked on their performance in the prisons weighted scorecard. However, this formed only one element of the final ratings for prisons. A new prison rating system was introduced for 2009-10, but the version used to produce the ratings for Quarter 1 did not lend itself to the production of a performance table. The system has been refined and will produce for internal use by NOMS prison rankings as part of the package when Quarter 2 ratings are published.

The new system produces initial quarterly assessments based on available data. Additional factors such as escapes and recent inspection results are then taken into account in the final ratings by an independent external moderation panel which includes a non-executive representative and is chaired by the Director of Criminal Justice Group in the Department. For this reason the final quarterly ratings published by the Department may differ from the data-driven rankings produced by NOMS.

Prison Service Order

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to amend Prison Service Order 0900. [illegible]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Order 0900 (PSO 0900) sets out policy and guidance on the security categorisation and allocation of prisoners. This ensures that all prisoners are placed in a security category consistent with managing their risks in terms of security and control and that the public is properly protected.

Work to update PSO 0900 is currently under way with a view to publication next year. Revisions will consolidate into one document changes made to categorisation policy over the last few years, and will restructure the document so that the guidance contained within it is more readily accessible to operational users.

Prisoners Release: Drugs

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who are suffering from substance misuse problems who have been released from prison in each of the last five years. [300805]

Maria Eagle: The following table sets out the number of prisoners assessed at either pre-release or start of licence as having an offending-related risk factor relating to 'drug misuse'. The assessment of offending-related risk factors was made through the Offender Assessment System (OASys) which is only applied to young adult prisoners and to adult prisoners serving sentences of more than 12 months. Figures are presented for the past four years (2005-08) as the electronic OASys system was still being implemented in 2004. The number of assessments used to produce the figures increased from 28,064 in 2005 to 33,471 in 2008. The data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

		Section score indicates a 'drug misuse' problem	
	Number of assessments	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	28,064	10,478	37.3
2006	30,172	11,704	38.8
2007	32,039	11,575	36.1
2008	33,471	11,857	35.4

Prisoners Release: Mentally Ill

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who are suffering from serious mental health problems who have been released from prison in each of the last five years. [300803]

Claire Ward: Information is not available in the form requested. Where a prisoner is suffering from a mental disorder which requires treatment in hospital, he/she can be transferred to hospital by the Secretary of State. Numbers of transfers of sentenced prisoners in England and Wales over the last five years for which published information is available were 296 (in 2003), 346 (in 2004), 356 (in 2005), 421 (in 2006) and 394 (in 2007). Prisoners have the same rights to treatment in prison for mental disorder, under NHS In-Reach provision, as they would have in the community. There is however no direct correlation between serious mental health problems and the need to be treated in a hospital.

Prisoners Transfers: Libya

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoner transfer applications his Department has received in respect of Libyan prisoners in the UK since 17 November 2008. [301572]

Maria Eagle: One prisoner detained in England and Wales has applied for transfer to Libya under the terms of the prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Libya. His application is under consideration.

The transfer of prisoners to and from Scotland is a matter for Scottish Ministers. The transfer of prisoners to and from Northern Ireland is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Prisons

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to encourage the more effective management of visitors, including families and children; [300853]

(2) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to improve the safety of *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* prisoners; [300854]

(3) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to improve staff visibility inside prisons; [300855]

(4) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to improve prison security; [300856]

(5) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to reduce the incidence of violence; [300857]

(6) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to discourage the hiding of contraband; [300858]

(7) if he will publish the design principles and specifications used for new-build prisons; [300859]

(8) what provisions have been made within the design specifications for new-build prisons to reduce the incidence of prisoner suicide. [300869]

Maria Eagle: New prisons are designed, constructed and managed to promote rehabilitation and education with a view to minimising the likelihood of re-offending, prevent escapes and operated in a way which would ensure that the prison population would, within each perimeter, be held in a safe, secure environment and behave in a controlled and orderly manner.

In August 2009, NOMS ran a series of design workshops to absorb recent innovations to enhance the management, safety and security of staff, visitors and inmates. In so doing it is acknowledged that each site will differ in how the land, planning permissions and any other existing buildings will support these measures as a design level.

Output specifications have been used to support our desired outcomes of management, safety, security and rehabilitation. The new prisons design principle is to encourage the market to innovate in order to improve the operational outcomes. Publishing prescriptive design specifications may therefore constrain innovation and improvement.

Prisons: Closed Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons have closed visits; and whether there are plans to trial closed visits in prisons which operate open visits. [301382]

Maria Eagle: The provision of closed visits facilities at each establishment is not centrally recorded. Governors may vary the conditions under which social visits take place or introduce measures to restrict the level of contact between the prisoner and their visitor during the course of the visit. Social visits will generally take place in an open environment and any decision to impose restrictions on contact must be made on an individual basis in relation to a particular prisoner or visitor and be proportionate to risk. This proportionality test is a requirement under legislation and there are no plans to change this.

Reoffenders

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serious further offences were committed by offenders under level 1 multi-agency public protection arrangements in each of the last 10 years. [300794]

Maria Eagle: Management information on the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) is published in local area MAPPA annual reports. The MAPPA Annual Reports have included in each of the last five years the number of offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 who have been charged with serious further offences. Areas have not so far been asked to report on charges of serious offending against MAPPA level 1 offenders, so the data requested is unavailable.

The purpose of the MAPPA annual reports is to show what multi-agency intervention and resources bring to local public protection arrangements. The focus of the information in the annual reports, therefore, has been upon the offenders managed at level 2 and 3 rather than at level 1, where offenders are managed through ordinary agency management.

However, in order to provide data on the whole offender population eligible for multi-agency management and resources, since April 2009 all areas have been required to record instances of offenders managed at level 1 of MAPPA who are charged with serious further offences (as well as those managed at levels 2 and 3), with a view to inclusion in next year's annual reports.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1025-6W, on secure accommodation: young offender institutions, for what reasons value added tax is not included within the figures. [300709]

Maria Eagle: VAT is payable only on the places commissioned by the youth justice board in secure training centres and private sector young offender institutions. VAT is not payable on the places in secure children's homes or public sector young offender institutions. Therefore, VAT is excluded from these figures in order to provide a valid comparison between sectors.

Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons some youth offending teams represent more than one local authority. [301298]

Maria Eagle: Local authorities are responsible for the formation of youth offending teams and, on occasion, neighbouring local authorities will decide to provide a joint service across their areas. This is in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 39(2).

Youth Custody

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children aged between *(a)* 10 and 14 and *(b)* 15 and 17 years were in custody on (i) the latest date for which figures are available and (ii) the equivalent date in each of the last five years. [300253]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show how many children and young people aged between *(a)* 10 and 14 and *(b)* 15 and 17 years were in custody on (i) 2 October 2009, and (ii) 2 October in each of the last five years.

The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and are drawn from administrative computer systems. As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

(i) Young people in custody by age group as of 2 October 2009

	Number
(a) 10 to 14	137
(b) 15 to 17	2,419
Total	2,556

(ii) Young people in custody by age group

	As of 2 October each year				
Age group	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*
(a) 10 to 14	159	186	221	226	206
(b) 15 to 17	2,755	2,797	2,832	2,779	2,576
Total	2,914	2,983	3,053	3,005	2,782

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 November 2009

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Health Services

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many health clinics in Afghanistan have received funding from the Government in each year since 2001. [301524]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The majority of UK support for health in Afghanistan occurs through contributions to the Afghan Government's budget. Since 2002, the Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed £360 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Fund (ARTF). The ARTF is managed by the World Bank and reimburses proven Government expenditure on operating costs including on health. DFID will provide a further £165 million to the ARTF to 2012-13 which will cover 14 per cent. of the Government's recurrent costs in health.

Since 2003 DFID has also invested £32 million in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which funds small-scale projects selected by communities all across Afghanistan. The NSP has funded the construction of over 100 health projects nationwide.

Construction of individual health clinics in Helmand is undertaken by the UK-led Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), to which DFID contributes staff and funding. In the last six months, the PRT has constructed or refurbished four health centres in Helmand province. Last year, the Bost hospital in Lashkar Gah received approximately £800,000 for a new maternity clinic and college. This would not have been possible under the Taliban.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided for rehabilitation projects for *(a)* health clinics, *(b)* schools and *(c)* drinking wells in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [301522]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The majority of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support for health and education in Afghanistan is not through direct construction projects, but rather support to the Afghan Government budget. Since 2002 DFID has contributed £360 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Fund (ARTF) which is managed by the World Bank and reimburses proven Government expenditure on operating costs including in health and education. We will provide a further £165 million to the ARTF to 2012-13. This will cover 14 per cent. of the Government's recurrent costs in health and education.

Since 2001 DFID has also contributed to a number of specific programmes involving the construction of health clinics, schools and drinking wells. Between 2006 and 2009, DFID contributed £30 million to various construction projects in Helmand through the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP). This included almost £4.4 million for the construction of wells and latrines.

Through the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team, the Bost hospital in Lashkar Gah received approximately £800,000 last year for a new maternity clinic and college that would not have been possible under the Taliban.

Since 2003, DFID has also contributed £32 million to the Government of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which funds small-scale projects selected by communities all around Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Roads

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many road projects in Afghanistan have been funded by the Government in each year since 2001. [301525]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The majority of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) funding for construction projects in Afghanistan is through support to the Afghan Government's budget. Since 2003, DFID has contributed £32 million to the National Solidarity Programme (NSP). This funds small-scale projects selected by communities all around Afghanistan, and has funded the construction of almost 12,000 'transport' projects.

Since 2001 DFID has also funded the design, improvement or construction of almost 150 kilometres of roads in Helmand province. This includes:

59 kilometres of small road projects selected by local communities and funded through the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP);

12.5 kilometres in various districts of Helmand as part of the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team's road building programme;

a 2.5 kilometre road providing access to the Gereshk power station, the rehabilitation of which DFID is financing;

the design of the 48 kilometre Lashkar Gah to Gereshk road.

Afghanistan: Schools

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many schools in Afghanistan have been funded by his Department in each year since 2001. [301523]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The majority of UK support for education in Afghanistan occurs through contributions to the Afghan Government budget. Since 2002, the Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed £360 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Fund (ARTF). The ARTF is managed by the World Bank and reimburses proven Government expenditure on operating costs including on education. We will provide a further £165 million to the ARTF to 2012-13 which will cover 14 per cent. of the Government's recurrent costs in education.

Since 2003 DFID has also invested £32 million in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP). This funds small-scale projects selected by communities all across Afghanistan, including the construction of almost 6,000 education projects nationwide.

DFID funded the refurbishment of training infrastructure and a teacher training centre in Kandahar province in 2002. UK support to construct schools in

Helmand is, however, normally undertaken by the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), to which DFID contributes staff and funding. In the last six months, the PRT has refurbished five schools in Helmand.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301489]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No formal allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to the Department of International Development (DFID) by current staff since 6 June 2006.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301166]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee—'Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall', the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301205]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I last travelled by train in the course of official duties on 20 November 2009.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301538]

Mr. Michael Foster: All external vacancies in the Department for International Development (DFID) are advertised in the National press and on our website and we use an e-resourcing system to help us to manage applications.

Since November 2008, a total of 63 posts have been advertised. 58 posts (92 per cent.) were advertised through our e-resourcing system (using online applications) and five posts (8 per cent.) were advertised inviting word applications by e-mail and hard copy.

There is an expectation that applicants will apply online however alternative application methods for all of our posts are considered on request.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mass of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [301565]

Mr. Michael Foster: All waste paper used by the Department for International Development (DFID) is recycled. The amount of paper in tonnes which has been recycled over the last five years by DFID is set out in the table. This information was provided by our waste contractors, based partly on estimates derived from waste audits which measured the proportion of paper waste out of the total recycled waste.

	Tonnes
2004-05	208.5
2005-06	146.4
2006-07	140.2
2007-08	126.4
2008-09	110.2

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [301373]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Training is provided to Ministers and special advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the 'Ministerial Code' and the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers'. Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/MinisterialProgramme/Table.asp

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of staff of his Department and its non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301328]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides a wide range of flexible working options.

Most staff work their contracted hours via the Flexible Working Hours Scheme. This offers flexibility on the hours worked and allows employees to work additional hours and convert them to leave, up to three days in every four-week period. Within this Flexible Working Hours Scheme, staff work alternative working patterns including reduced hours, compressed hours, job-sharing and term-time working. At July 2009, 144 Home Civil Servants worked part-time, equating to 8.6 per cent.

DFID's policy is that unless there is a clear business reason all jobs are available on a job-share or flexible basis.

DFID does not have any responsibility for any executive agencies. Nor do we have any staff working in non-departmental public bodies.

Remittances

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the value of remittances as a percentage of the gross domestic product of each country which receives support from his Department in each year since 2005. [301221]

Mr. Thomas: The World Bank is the leading source of reliable data on remittances. However, there is no information for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Iraq. The available information for the years 2005-08 is as follows:

Remittances as a share of GDP

				Percentage
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ethiopia	1.41	1.30	1.80	1.50
Ghana	0.90	0.80	0.80	0.80
Kenya	4.30	5.30	5.45	4.90
Malawi	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Mozambique	0.90	1.10	1.25	1.20
Nigeria	2.96	2.90	6.66	4.70
Rwanda	0.90	0.80	1.86	1.20
Sierra Leone	0.16	2.40	9.44	7.70
Sudan	4.22	3.10	3.80	5.30
Tanzania	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.10
Uganda	4.60	8.70	7.23	3.40
Zambia	0.74	0.50	0.48	0.50
Bangladesh	7.20	8.80	9.55	11.40
India	2.60	2.80	3.09	4.20
Nepal	14.90	18.00	15.50	21.60
Pakistan	3.90	4.00	4.20	4.20
Cambodia	3.10	4.10	4.20	3.40
Vietnam	7.60	7.90	7.90	7.90
Yemen	7.60	6.70	6.08	5.30
Jamaica	16.00	18.50	19.30	14.50
Guyana	25.30	24.30	23.50	24.00

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he made of the amount of remittances sent *(a)* in total, *(b)* to Pakistan and *(c)* to Nigeria in the latest year for which figures are available. [301314]

Mr. Thomas: Total global remittances are estimated at $444 billion in 2008, of which $338 billion flowed to developing countries.

Remittances to Pakistan totalled $7.0 billion in 2008.

Remittances to Nigeria totalled $10.0 billion in 2008.

Data Source:

The World Bank

UNESCO: Prizes

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on UNESCO's decision to establish the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences; and if he will make a statement. [300240]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Delegation to UNESCO has received one e-mail expressing concern at the creation of this prize, from the Open Society Institute in November 2009.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role his Department played in the processes leading to UNESCO's decision to establish the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences; and if he will make a statement. [300241]

Mr. Thomas: The proposal to establish this prize was put forward by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to UNESCO's Executive Board on 29 September 2008; and it was approved by the Executive Board on 17 October 2008. The UK was not a member of the Board and therefore took no part in the decision.

World Food Programme: Somalia

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what involvement the UK has in the World Food Programme's activities in Somalia; what actions the World Food Programme took in Somalia in the last 12 months; and what actions are planned in the next 12 months. [301469]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has received $335 million so far in 2009 from various donors for its emergency food aid operations in Somalia, against stated requirements of $475 million. It expects by the end of 2009 to have delivered 304,000 metric tonnes of emergency food aid to 3.1 million Somalis.

WFP expects to appeal for $309 million to continue its emergency food aid and $40 million for its emergency nutrition operations in 2010. This will include Special Operations to improve the security of staff operating in Somalia, finance a humanitarian air support operation, and improve key port and road infrastructure to facilitate its food aid operations.

In 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided $23.8 million to the WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for Somalia, which was spent by WFP from June 2008 to March 2009.

DFID contributed $102 million in 2009 to the cost of WFP's global operations, and plays an active role in the WFP Board in discussion of its programmes and policies.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Farm Land Management

9. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the policy of the Church Commissioners is on the management of their holdings of farm land. [301673]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church Commissioners seek the best possible total return from all their assets (not just farm holdings) within an acceptable level of risk and their ethical investment policy.

Church of England: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what formula each diocese uses for calculating parish share. [301363]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not collect individual dioceses' parish share formulae. However, I will shortly place in the Library a document entitled "Parish Share Systems by Diocese" which summarises dioceses' approach to the calculation and allocation of parish share. More detailed information would have to be obtained from each diocese.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners with reference to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 996W, on the Church of England: finance, how the number of church members is calculated; what the average parish share per church member in each *(a)* parochial church council (PCC) area and *(b)* diocese is; what the parish share in each PCC in England in 2009 was; what revenue each diocese received (i) in total and (ii) per Church member from the (A) parish share and (B) other sources in the last 12 months; and how much each diocese spent in that period. [301531]

Sir Stuart Bell: Church membership is estimated as an average of electoral roll, average Sunday attendance and average weekly attendance numbers.

Parish share per church 'member' requested in each diocese was given in my answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 995-96W. Parish share and other income per church 'member' received in each diocese in 2007 (the latest year for which such figures are available), using figures from diocesan accounts, is shown in the table.

The Commissioners do not collect the other information requested by the hon. Gentleman.

Income per church 'member' in 2007[1]

	Parish share	Other income	£ Total income
Bath and Wells	291	206	497
Birmingham	299	280	579
Blackburn	263	168	431
Bradford	396	391	787
Bristol	387	178	564
Canterbury	338	85	423
Carlisle	302	228	530
Chelmsford	339	174	513
Chester	274	139	414
Chichester	266	160	426
Coventry	306	169	475
Derby	314	133	447
Durham	263	189	452
Ely	281	163	444
Exeter	304	199	503
Gloucester	265	175	440
Guildford	383	68	451
Hereford	271	118	388
Leicester	334	315	649
Lichfield	310	289	599
Lincoln	203	305	509
Liverpool	246	154	400
London	285	193	478
Manchester	264	244	507
Newcastle	276	181	458
Norwich	342	209	551
Oxford	330	131	461
Peterborough	323	886	1209
Portsmouth	286	155	442
Ripon and Leeds	371	211	582
Rochester	354	97	451
St. Albans	316	158	473
St. Edmunsbury and Ipswich	310	97	407
Salisbury	282	99	381
Sheffield	316	293	609
Sodor and Man	270	86	356
Southwark	380	185	566
Southwell and Nottingham	323	249	571
Truro	259	286	545
Wakefield	305	170	475
Winchester	316	74	390
Worcester	315	198	513
York	267	215	482
Total	304	192	496

[1] Membership: One-third electoral roll, one-third average Sunday attendance, one-third average weekly attendance.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Preferential Voting: Referendum

2. **Martin Linton:** To ask the honourable Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has been requested to advise Ministers on the contents of a paving Bill for a referendum on preferential voting. [301666]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has received no such request.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Land

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to facilitate access to manorial documents held by *(a)* local record offices and *(b)* other organisations for the purpose of supporting public interest applications for the re-registration of land as common under Schedule 2(4) of the Commons Act 2006. [301457]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is the responsibility of an applicant under paragraph 4 of schedule 2 to the Commons Act 2006 to obtain and provide evidence supporting his or her application. Where relevant manorial documents are held by local record offices, they will generally be available to the public for inspection. Where they are held by private individuals, arrangements for inspection should be made with the custodian.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of *(a)* publishing in electronic format and *(b)* permitting free access to (i) phase 1 habitat maps, (ii) the land cover map 2007 and (iii) other resources used by people applying to re-register common land under Schedule 2(4) of the Commons Act 2006. [301458]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Public access is already generally available to similar documents where they are held by public bodies, under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Under regulation 6 of the 2004 regulations, a person may request information to be made available in electronic form, and a public authority must comply unless the exceptions in regulation 6(1) apply. DEFRA has arranged for electronic copies of the decisions of the Commons Commissioners in England and Wales to be placed on the website of the Association of Commons Registration Officers at

www.acraew.org.uk

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons applicants for the re-registration of land under Schedule 2(4) of the Commons Act 2006 are required to provide large-scale ordnance survey maps describing the application area in circumstances in which existing register maps describing that area are available. [301460]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The use of large-scale maps is required for the purposes of an application under paragraph 4 of schedule 2 to the Commons Act 2006, in order to ensure accuracy in determining the boundary line of the land specified in the application. However, we accept that, where the application relates to the whole of a cancelled register unit, the representation of the cancelled unit on the register map could otherwise be suitable for the purpose of identification.

We are reviewing the pilot implementation of part 1 of the Commons Act 2006, and will consider what changes might be made to the regulations relating to applications under paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Act when Part 1 is implemented nationally at a later date.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether assistance from his Department is available to individuals or organisations applying to re-register common land under Schedule 2(4) of the Commons Act 2006 to *(a)* identify and *(b)* serve notice on the owners of that land, with particular reference to circumstances in which such land is not registered with the Land Registry. [301463]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No assistance is available from DEFRA for the purposes of making an application to register waste land of a manor under paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Commons Act 2006, regardless of whether the ownership is registered with the Land Registry.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the costs expected to be incurred by an individual or organisation applying to re-register common land under Schedule 2(4) of the Commons Act 2006. [301464]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The impact assessment for the pilot implementation of Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 concluded that the completion of an application form by applicants would impose a very small administrative burden on applicants. In addition, the costs of giving notice of an application to prescribed persons would also generally be low. The impact assessment noted that DEFRA intended to gather further information about the burden on applicants, but to date no applications have been submitted under paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to enable this to be done.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300924]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and its delivery network are contributing to the Government's target of £35 billion VFM savings in CSR07. Overall progress towards the target will be reported in departmental autumn performance reports. Current savings include those arising under DEFRA's Workplace Support Initiative which will bring much of the DEFRA estate (which currently covers over 234 sites across the Department and its agencies) into a single facilities management contract. DEFRA will save £6 million per year in 2010-11 compared to the preceding year through economies of scale and increasing the flexibility of its facilities. Savings will rise to £11 million per year by 2013-14.

The Department's plans for delivering OEP savings over the next spending review are being developed to contribute to the Government's £9 billion target of OEP savings across the public sector.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300179]

Dan Norris: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by DEFRA has gone up from 79.5 per cent. in 2006-07 to 85 per cent. in 2007-08. We expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 3 August 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, transferred from the Treasury, PO Ref: 1/74240/2009, on surface water charges. [301743]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 17 August and have arranged for a copy of the response to be sent to him.

Origin Marking: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 568W, on origin marking: Israel, for what reasons the proposals on labelling of goods originating from Israeli settlements have not yet been published for public consultation; and when he expects the proposals to be published. [300306]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: We fully appreciate the strong opinions that people have about this issue. It is because of the sensitive and complex nature of this case that the Government are still carefully considering possible next steps.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Bribery Bill

Simon Hughes: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent discussions she has had with the Attorney-General on the implications of the proposed Bribery Bill for the role of the Attorney-General. [301688]

The Solicitor-General: The Bribery Bill will no longer require the consent of the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General before a prosecution for an offence under the Bill can be started, and instead will require the consent of the Director of the relevant prosecuting authority. The Bill does not alter the role of the Attorney-General in any other way.

Eddie Gilfoyle

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General on what dates the Crown Prosecution Service received *(a)* the report of the review, *(b)* the draft report and *(c)* the notes of interviews with police officers between the end of Mr. Eddie Gilfoyle's trial and the time they were disclosed to the defence for Mr. Gilfoyle's appeal in 1995. [301569]

The Solicitor-General: The Merseyside Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) received the report of the review conducted by Merseyside police on 17 July 1995.

The relevant part of the report, together with the supporting material including the notes with the various officers, was served on the defence by way of a covering letter on 7 August 1995.

The appeal was heard on 11, 12 and 14 September 1995 and the judgment of the Court of Appeal was delivered on 20 October 1995.

Euthanasia: Prosecutions

Anne Moffat: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent representations the Director of Public Prosecutions has received on his interim policy for prosecutors on assisted suicide. [301677]

The Solicitor-General: The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) published the interim policy for prosecutors in respect of cases of assisted suicide on 23 September 2009. At the same time the CPS launched a 12-week public consultation on it. Up to 20 November 2009, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had received approximately 700 pieces of correspondence in response.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Questions: Written Answers

28. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations she has received on the timeliness of answers to Parliamentary Questions for written answer. [301693]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House has today responded to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions which sets out how the Government plan to improve the quality and timeliness of written parliamentary questions.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to reply to the letter of 21 September 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [301742]

Barbara Keeley: The hon. Member's letter of 21 September 2009 was transferred to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; which is part of the Ministry of Justice, for answer, on 5 October 2009.

I apologise for any confusion and delay caused.

Westminster Hall Sittings

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make arrangements for a full weekly programme of Westminster Hall debates to be held in future in the first full week of a new parliamentary Session. [301892]

Barbara Keeley: There are practical obstacles to holding sittings in Westminster Hall in the first week of a new Parliament. A few days are needed to hold ballots for adjournment debates, for the necessary consultations over the business to be taken at Thursday afternoon sittings, and for the appointment of the Chairmen's Panel.

I do not therefore believe that it would be feasible for sittings to take place in the first full week of the next Session.

TRANSPORT

A3: Hindhead

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to date was of the Hindhead Tunnel project on the latest date figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the total cost of that project. [300744]

Chris Mole: Expenditure to date at the end of October 2009 for the Hindhead Tunnel was £258.6 million.

The most recent estimate of the total cost for the project is £365.7 million.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent reports he has received of *(a)* incidents involving the contamination of aircraft cabin air supply by fumes from engine lubricants and *(b)* the commercial aircraft types which have experienced a contamination of the cabin air supply from the fumes of engine lubricants. [301292]

Paul Clark: Incidents of contaminated air events are reported to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) under the mandatory occurrences reporting scheme (MORS). The latest figures, by commercial aircraft type in the UK, for the first six months of this year are shown in the table.

Between 1 January 2009 and 30 June 2009, there were 38 reported contaminated air events. These figures are out of 553,266 airline flights—passenger and cargo operations—for the corresponding period:

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air (January-June 2009)*
Boeing 757	8
Airbus A319	7
Airbus A320	6
Boeing 737	5
Various other aircraft types	12
Total	38

For ease of reference the figures for the last full year (2008) are also included. In 2008 there were 97 reported contaminated air events. These figures are out of 1.2 million airline flights—passenger and cargo operations—for the calendar year 2008.

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air (2008)*
Boeing B757	38
Airbus A319	19
Boeing B737	10
Airbus A320	6
Boeing B747	5
Various other aircraft types	19
Total	97

Note:
The British Aerospace BAe146 and Boeing B777 are now included in 'various other aircraft types' as the numbers of reported events were two and four respectively.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what statutory basis there is for the use of the automatic number plate recognition technology. [300513]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency uses automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems to identify offences relating to the use of unlicensed vehicles in contravention of Section 29 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994. Evidence relied upon to pursue penalties for these offences is gathered using systems that have been type approved in line with Section 20 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

The Highways Agency uses data from ANPR cameras to help with the effective management of traffic on the strategic road network. The statutory basis for this is covered in the Highways Act 1980 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the governance system of the use of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system. [300514]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) uses a range of measures to maintain high levels of compliance with vehicle licensing requirements, including the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology. DVLA's compliance approach is kept under review by the Vehicle Excise Duty Collection and Enforcement Governance Board, which meets every quarter.

Data from the Highways Agency's ANPR cameras are scrambled at source into a non-unique code which can apply to more than one vehicle simultaneously. It is understood that this process renders the data as non-personal under the Data Protection Act 1998.

In addition, the Highways Agency operates a system of Information Asset Owners to ensure that data are held and used in accordance with current legislation, namely the Data Protection Act 1998 and in accordance with Cabinet Office data handling guidance issued in 2008.

Data gathered by ANPR cameras are stored at the Highways Agency National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC). The Highways Agency's Information Asset Owner (IAO) has ensured that the information is accredited to Information Security ISO27001 standards. In September 2009 Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) conducted a review of procedures at the NTCC and confirmed that standards still met the requirements of ISO27001.

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the average number of passengers on internal flights within Great Britain in the last period for which figures are available is, expressed *(a)* in passenger numbers and *(b)* as a percentage of passenger carrying capacity; [301286]

(2) how many internal flights there were in Great Britain in 2008; and what estimate he has made of the overall number of passengers who travelled on such flights. [301287]

Paul Clark: In 2008 there were 255,000 passenger flights departing airports in Great Britain to fly to another airport in Great Britain. These flights carried 15.3 million passengers. This equates to an average of 60 passengers per flight, equivalent to 64 per cent. of estimated seat capacity.

Aviation: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much aviation fuel he estimates has been used in the UK in each year since 1997. [301288]

Paul Clark: The amount of aviation fuel uplifted in the UK in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	Petroleum consumption (million tonnes)
1997	8.45
1998	9.28
1999	9.98
2000	10.8
2001	10.67
2002	10.57
2003	10.81
2004	11.60
2005	12.55
2006	12.69
2007	12.67
2008	12.17

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department gives to local authorities seeking to reduce their expenditure on concessionary bus fares. [301079]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not provide guidance specifically on how to reduce expenditure on concessionary travel. Travel concession authorities (TCAs) are required by law to reimburse bus operators for carrying concessionary bus travellers, with the objective that the operators are left no better off and no worse off by taking part in concessionary travel schemes.

The Department provides guidance to local authorities and bus operators on how to calculate appropriate reimbursement, which sets out the Department's preferred route for calculating reimbursement (via the use of the reimbursement analysis tool). However TCAs are free to use the methodology of their choice subject to ensuring consistency with the no better and no worse off objective.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to the public purse of subsidising bus services was in each year since 1997. [301294]

Mr. Khan: The Government subsidise bus services in England through the Department for Transport's bus service operators grant (BSOG) which is paid to operators of local bus services.

Since 1998, the Government have also provided rural bus subsidy grant which helps local authorities to support rural bus services in England.

The following table shows the amounts paid by Government in each year since 1997 through bus service operators grant and rural bus subsidy grant in England:

£ million

	Bus service operators grant in England	*Rural bus subsidy grant*
1997-98	187.3	—
1998-99	222.3	32.5
1999-2000	277.4	32.5
2000-01	301.3	32.5
2001-02	304.3	41.5
2002-03	317.2	47.5
2003-04	331.4	48.5
2004-05	347.5	51.0
2005-06	357.6	53.0
2006-07	367.5	54.3
2007-08	392.2	55.6
2008-09	423.2	57.0
2009-10	436.6	58.5
Total	4,265.9	564.4

Rural bus services are also supported by local authorities' revenue support grant (RSG) funding. It is for local authorities to decide what bus services to support in their area according to local needs and priorities.

Cheadle Hulme Station: Finance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what proportion of the new £50 million allocated for station improvements will be allocated to Cheadle Hulme railway station; [301077]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the case for improvements to Cheadle Hulme railway station. [301078]

Chris Mole: The new £50 million fund is intended for the 10 major (category B) interchange stations identified as requiring urgent improvement in the Station Champions' report. Cheadle Hulme is a medium staffed (category D) station and is therefore not included on this list.

A site survey was carried out on behalf of the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005, as part of the consultation strategy behind the Access for All Programme. This identified that Cheadle Hulme did not meet modern standards for accessibility in a number of respects, and recommended installation of a new footbridge and lifts to all platforms. We currently expect this work to take place during 2010-11.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [illegible]

Mr. Khan: The UK delegation will be led by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and his officials. There are no current plans for Ministers or officials from the Department for Transport (DfT) to attend. Officials from DfT are in constant contact with their counterparts at the Department of Energy and Climate Change and will stay in touch with them throughout the negotiations to coordinate the Department's contribution to the various negotiations that will be taking place at the Conference.

Cycling: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many traffic accidents involving cyclists were recorded in each constituency in England in each of the last five years. [illegible]

Paul Clark: A table showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving pedal cyclists in each constituency in England in each of the last five years has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Disability Aids

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to implement the recommendations made by the review of class *(a)* two and *(b)* three powered wheelchairs and powered scooters. [300702]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport expects to take forward the review's principal recommendations in the form of a public consultation in 2010. The issues we propose to consult on include future fitness to drive, insurance, registration and the training requirements for Class 2 and Class 3 mobility vehicle users.

The Government's aim will continue to be to balance the mobility needs of scooter users with the safety needs of pedestrians and other road users.

Disability Aids: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will commission an inquiry into the number of deaths and serious injuries resulting from accidents involving powered wheelchairs and powered scooters; and if he will make a statement. [300703]

Mr. Khan: There are no plans to commission an inquiry into to the number of deaths and serious injuries involving mobility vehicles. The Department for Transport is aware that the number of mobility scooters is on the increase and therefore it is procuring a survey to help assess the number of mobility scooter users and the extent to which their use may have injured people. Further, the Department is expecting to publish a public consultation on options for change.

The Government's aim will continue to be to balance the mobility needs of scooter users with the safety needs of pedestrians and other road users.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many incidents causing injury involving mobility scooters have been reported to the police in each of the last five years. [302126]

Paul Clark: The information requested cannot be identified separately. Reported personal injury accidents involving mobility scooters are recorded as part of the 'other motor vehicle' category.

London Airports

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of and how many passengers using *(a)* Heathrow Airport and *(b)* Gatwick Airport were in transit (i) between domestic and international flights and (ii) between international flights in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [301290]

Paul Clark: The following table shows percentage of passengers transferring between domestic and international flights and between international flights at Heathrow and Gatwick in 2008.

Passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick 2008

	Heathrow		*Gatwick*	
	Passengers (million)	*Percentage of total passengers*	*Passengers (million)*	*Percentage of total passengers*
Total passengers	66.9		33.4	
Of which				
Transfer				
Domestic to International	2.7	4	1.1	3
International to International	18.1	27	1.2	4
International to Domestic	2.8	4	0.9	3
Total transfer passengers[1]	23.6	35	3.2	10

[1] This includes domestic to domestic transfer passengers.

Source:

CAA Passenger Survey

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of journeys made to *(a)* Gatwick, *(b)* Heathrow, *(c)* Stansted and *(d)* Luton airports were made by (i) train, (ii) bus and (iii) other road vehicles in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [301291]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the percentage of journeys made to Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted and Luton airports that were made by train, bus/coach, tube, and other road vehicles in 2008.

Air passengers who travelled to or from Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted and Luton airports by train, bus/coach and other road vehicles in 2008[1]

Final mode	*Gatwick*	*Heathrow*	*Stansted*	*Luton*
Rail (percentage)	30	10	26	19
Buses/coaches (percentage)	7	14	21	14
Tube (percentage)	0	16	0	0
Other road vehicles (percentage)	63	60	52	67
Terminating passengers[2] (million)	30.1	43.0	20.4	9.7

[1] These results are based on a departure survey only. The assumption, for weighting purposes, is that arriving and departing passengers share the same modal characteristics.

[2] This includes passengers using other modes to/from airport.

Source:

CAA Passenger Survey

Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average mileage of a car in England was in each year since 1997. [301297]

Mr. Khan: The following table gives the estimated annual vehicle mileage for cars in England for from 1997 to 2008, based on data from the National Travel Survey:

Estimated average annual car[1] *mileage, 1997-2008*[2]*: England*

Year[2]	*Miles*	*Unweighted sample size (vehicles)*
size (vehicles)		
1996-98	9,450	8,356
1999-2001	9,270	9,026
2002	9,150	7,387
2003	9,200	7,872
2004	9,100	7,499
2005	8,950	8,212
2006	8,740	8,142
2007	8,850	7,983
2008	8,640	7,767

[1] Four wheel cars only

[2] Data were reported for three-year intervals as shown prior to the expansion of the National Travel Survey sample in 2002.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average level of carbon dioxide emissions in grammes per kilometre was for *(a)* new and *(b)* all cars in (i) the UK and (ii) each other EU member state in each year since 1997. [301295]

Mr. Khan: A fully comprehensive dataset of fuel efficiency data for new cars is only available for the UK and the EU from 2001 in accordance with EU Decision 1753/2000/EC. The EU Commission collects and reports average CO_2 emission data for new cars sold across the EU by member state. Table 1 is taken from the latest EU Commission monitoring report and shows average fuel efficiency of new cars sold in the UK and other EU member states where data are available between 2001 and 2007 measured in grams of carbon dioxide per km (gCO_2/km). Missing data reflect the expansion of the EU to 25 member states in 2004 and to 27 in 2007 (2007 data for Bulgaria are missing as none were submitted to the EU Commission). Data for 2008 are not yet available.

Table 1: Average fuel efficiency of new cars sold by member state

Member state	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Austria	165.6	164.4	163.8	161.9	162.1	163.7	162.9
Belgium	163.7	161.1	158.1	156.5	155.2	153.9	152.8
Cyprus	n/a	n/a	n/a	173.4	173.0	170.1	170.3
Czech Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a	154.0	155.3	154.2	154.2
Denmark	172.9	170.0	169.0	165.9	163.7	162.5	159.8
Estonia	n/a	n/a	n/a	179.0	183.7	182.7	181.6
Finland	178.1	177.2	178.3	179.8	179.5	179.2	177.3
France	159.8	156.8	155.0	153.1	152.3	149.9	149.4
Germany	179.5	177.4	175.9	174.9	173.4	172.5	169.5
Greece	166.5	167.8	168.9	168.8	167.4	166.5	165.3
Hungary	n/a	n/a	n/a	158.4	156.3	154.6	155.0
Ireland	166.6	164.3	166.7	167.6	166.8	166.3	161.6
Italy	158.3	156.6	152.9	150.0	149.5	149.2	146.5
Latvia	n/a	n/a	n/a	192.4	187.2	183.1	183.5
Lithuania	n/a	n/a	n/a	187.5	186.3	163.4	176.5
Luxembourg	177.0	173.8	173.5	169.7	168.6	168.2	165.8
Malta	n/a	n/a	n/a	148.8	150.5	145.9	147.8
Netherlands	174.0	172.4	173.5	170.9	169.9	166.7	164.8
Poland	n/a	n/a	n/a	154.1	155.2	155.9	153.7
Portugal	n/a	154.0	149.9	147.1	144.9	145.0	144.2
Romania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	154.8
Slovakia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	157.4	152.0	152.7

Table 1: Average fuel efficiency of new cars sold by member state

Member state	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Slovenia	n/a	n/a	n/a	152.7	157.2	155.3	156.3
Spain	156.8	156.4	157.0	155.3	155.3	155.6	153.2
Sweden	200.2	198.2	198.5	197.2	193.8	188.6	181.4
UK	177.6	174.8	172.7	171.3	169.7	167.7	164.7

Source:
EU Commission

It is not possible to produce figures for average CO_2 emissions for all cars in the UK or other EU member states because of the relatively few years for which average fuel efficiency data have been collected.

Motor Vehicles: Fuel Oil

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage change there has been in the average level of fuel efficiency of cars sold in the UK in each year since 1997. [301296]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not have data on the average fuel efficiency of all cars sold in the UK. However, a fully comprehensive dataset of fuel efficiency data for new cars is available for the UK from 2001 in accordance with EU Decision 1753/2000/EC. Table 1 shows average fuel efficiency of new cars sold in the UK between 2001 and 2008 measured in grams of carbon dioxide per km (gCO_2/km). These figures have been used to calculate the percentage change in fuel efficiency for each year.

Table 1: Average fuel efficiency for new cars sold in the UK 2001-08

	Fuel efficiency (gCO_2/km)	*Annual percentage change*
2001	177.6	-1.9
2002	174.8	-1.6
2003	172.7	-1.2
2004	171.3	-0.8
2005	169.7	-0.9
2006	167.7	-1.2
2007	164.7	-1.8
2008	158.2	-4.0

Source:
DVLA

Motorways: Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the matrix signs over motorways are as up to date as possible; and if he will make a statement. [300470]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency takes a number of measures to ensure sign accuracy.

The majority of signs are automatic and set by sensors or other roadside infrastructure. As a result any message displayed is real-time and takes account of changing road conditions.

Beyond the automatic signs the remaining messages are set manually by operators in either a regional or the national control centre.

To ensure signs are set in a timely manner, performance indicators have been put in place to monitor how quickly a message is placed on a sign. The indicator requires operators in the regional centres to set or remove legends within two minutes of an incident being confirmed.

Further procedures and alarms mean that checks take place while an incident is running. Procedures in the national centre require operators to review incident "Events" every 45 minutes and alarms are tripped for every three-hour period that a variable message sign is not updated.

Steps are also taken to review sign accuracy. Each month, both the regional and national centres review incidents to assess the overall accuracy of their sign settings, and to identify any opportunities to make improvements.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the siting of pedestrian crossings. [300221]

Mr. Khan: Current advice from this Department is contained in Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/95, The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings and Local Transport Note 2/95, the Design of Pedestrian Crossings.

The documents can be made available in the Library of the House and are on the internet at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/assessmentofpedestriancro4033.pdf

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/designofpedestriancrossin4034.pdf

Railway Stations: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the funding for the station improvements referred to in his announcement on 17 November is to come from the National Stations Improvement Programme. [300541]

Chris Mole: The £50 million announced on 17 November to tackle improvements at the 10 major interchange stations identified for improvement in the Station Champions' report is in addition to the existing £150 million for station improvements under the National Stations Improvement Programme.

Railways: Accidents

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the written ministerial statement of 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, on rail accidents (Grayrigg and Potters Bar), when he expects an inquest into the Potters Bar derailment to take place. [301147]

Chris Mole: The Lord Chief Justice continues to work to identify a suitable judge for appointment by the Hertfordshire coroner to act as his Assistant Deputy Coroner and conduct the Potters Bar inquests. The timing of the inquests is a matter for the Coroner, or the Assistant Deputy Coroner, once appointed.

Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on advertising the purpose of driver location signs; and what assessment he has made of the public awareness of such signs. [300471]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency has spent £5,000 on advertising the purpose of driver location signs. This has included the production of leaflets and information on its website.

The Highways Agency regularly engages with its customers to determine if more can be done to improve their awareness of new projects and initiatives. A recent customer report has highlighted the lack of public awareness of the signs and the Highways Agency is currently considering a range of options to correct this.

Research carried out on trial sections of routes equipped with driver location signs showed that response times of emergency service organisations were 10 per cent. quicker than previous responses to similar incidents. Getting the emergency services to the scene of an incident more efficiently ultimately leads to incidents being cleared more quickly.

Roads: Stonehenge

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has plans to seek to mitigate the environmental impact of the use of roads passing close to Stonehenge. [300745]

Chris Mole: English Heritage has recently submitted to Wiltshire county council a planning application for its new Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project which includes proposals to relocate the visitor centre and to close the A344 local road which currently runs immediately adjacent to the stone circle. The proposals will bring significant environmental benefits and the Highways Agency is working closely with English Heritage to secure the closure of the junction between the A344 and the A303 trunk road to the south east of the stones. Beyond the junction itself, the closure of the A344 is a matter for Wiltshire county council as the local highway authority.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the additional cost per vehicle of the proposed new Intercity Express trains which is directly attributable to the inclusion of a bi-mode capacity, as compared to an electric train operating with a diesel engine coupled for non-electrified sections of track. [301146]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's analysis suggests that the costs of the bi-mode train, and the electric train followed by diesel loco-haulage, are around the same. The advantages of the bi-mode option are that it will not result in delay to passengers as a locomotive is being attached, that it will provide a more reliable service and that it does not require potentially expensive and disruptive infrastructure work at stations to facilitate the attaching of a locomotive.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much space will be allocated per seated passenger in *(a)* standard and *(b)* first class on the new Intercity Express trains; and how it compares with space allocations on existing rolling stock operating on the East Coast Main Line. [301149]

Chris Mole: Uni-directional seats (those not located around a bay-table) on the new Super Express Trains will have approximately *(a)* 750mm knee-room in standard class and *(b)* 915mm knee-room in first class. Similar seats on current Mark 4 carriages on the East Coast Main Line have approximately *(a)* 700mm knee-room in standard class and *(b)* 1010mm knee-room in first class.

Shipping: Pollution

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department next plans to review the national contingency plan for marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations. [301636]

Paul Clark: The National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP) has traditionally been updated approximately every five years, to take account of lessons learned from marine pollution incidents and exercises that have arisen since the last edition.

The next revision exercise is scheduled to commence in late 2010 and will also include amendments to reflect machinery of government changes.

Shipping: Safety

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* conclusions were reached and *(b)* recommendations were made by the International Maritime Organisation Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers in respect of the safe transit of containers by sea at its meetings on 21 to 25 September 2009; and what steps the Government plans to take in consequence. [301606]

Paul Clark: The 14th meeting of the sub-committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) considered a range of issues relating to container safety. Of particular note were the decisions reached on harmonized interpretations of the International Convention on Safe Containers (CSC) and on a series of amendments to the guidance associated with the convention. It was also agreed to establish a correspondence group to consider further criteria to identify defects in containers before they represent a safety hazard.

The decisions taken by the DSC are subject to endorsement at the 87th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in May 2010. The Government plan to support the outcome of DSC at the MSC and push for their adoption internationally.

Stockport Station: Finance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what timetable his Department plans for the distribution of new funding for station improvements to Stockport railway station. [301075]

Chris Mole: We are expecting money to be spent in Control Period 4 (up to 2014) on the 10 major interchange stations, including Stockport, which have been identified for priority improvement by the Station Champions. We anticipate a rolling programme of improvements including third party funding from industry stakeholders and local government which may be more forthcoming as we emerge from recession.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the new £50 million allocated for station improvements will be allocated to Stockport railway station. [301076]

Chris Mole: Network Rail will take the lead in deciding the proportion of the new £50 million fund that will be spent on Stockport station, although the Department for Transport will need to approve the plans, which will be subject to a satisfactory business case and the prospect of an adequate financial return. We will also challenge the industry and local government to raise part of the money required for each of the stations themselves.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Poverty: Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the childhood deprivation data which appeared in her Department's annual Opportunity for All reports to be published on her Department's website. [302011]

Helen Goodman: The vast majority of data contained in Opportunity for All is in the public domain and Secretary of State is currently considering whether there is value in publishing this report given the range of other documents covering similar issues.

Data on children in low income households and in families in low income and material deprivation are published in the Households Below Average Income report, which is available on the Department for Work and Pensions' website.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Olympic contracts have been awarded to *(a)* UK registered and *(b)* other firms to date. [301961]

Tessa Jowell: To date, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has awarded contracts to 1,081 suppliers, of these all but 17 are businesses registered in the UK.

Earlier this month, the ODA published a map showing that many suppliers from across the UK were winning work both directly with the ODA and within its supply chain. Details are available in business section of the London 2012 website:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/index.php

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what he expects the *(a)* final severance and *(b)* pension arrangements to be for the outgoing executive director of Arts Council England in the West Midlands. [301897]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Coastal Areas: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which parliamentary constituencies received funding through the Sea Change programme in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what the monetary value was of each grant. [302006]

Margaret Hodge: The Sea Change Programme, which has allocated £38 million to 32 resorts, has only been in place since 1 April 2008. The parliamentary constituencies which received funding in 2008-09 (Wave 1 of the programme), and the value of each grant are set out in the following table:

Parliamentary constituency	*Value of grant (£)*
Blackpool South	4,000,000
Dover	3,850,000
Torbay	1,542,531
Totnes	705,001
Berwick-upon-Tweed	1,000,000
Bexhill and Battle	1,000,000
Weston-Super-Mare	951,447
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	480,800
Bournemouth East	455,000
Teignbridge	376,676
Torridge and West Devon	[1]100,000
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	[2]30,000
North Thanet	[2]30,000
North Devon	[2]30,000
Beverley and Holderness	[2]30,000
Tynemouth	[2]29,525
Total	14,610,980

[1] Development Grant

[2] Feasibility Grant

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on conferences in 2008-09. [302009]

Mr. Simon: My Department spent £133,398.30 on holding conferences in 2008-09. This figure includes running costs, room hire, hospitality and accommodation charges.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301156]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the week commencing 9 November, I met members of the International Press Institute; David Davies, the chair of the Listed Events Review; diplomats at the German embassy and young artists at the unveiling of an art work to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; members of the House of Lords Communications Committee at a formal hearing of the Committee; representatives of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and Britain's architectural community at a reception at 10 Downing Street; and organisers of the London Jazz Festival at a parliamentary reception.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department it publishes. [302346]

Mr. Simon: As a matter of course, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport publishes all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Code of Practice for Official Statistics' and the 'National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics'.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many self-exclusions have been *(a)* in operation and *(b)* breached in relation to gaming machines in each of the last five years. [301769]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requirement for licensed gambling operators to put into effect procedures for self-exclusion was introduced in September 2007 by the Gambling Commission. Figures on self-exclusion were published for the first time in the Commission's Industry Statistics for 2008-09. These are available at

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

and can be seen in the following table.

Prior to the Gambling Act 2005 coming into force, self-exclusion arrangements were put in place on a voluntary basis by gambling operators and no central data were collected on their use.

Number of exclusions recorded by operators[1]	*Adult gaming centres*	*Family entertainment centres*
Self-exclusions	2,254	201
Known breaches of self-exclusion	132	9
Number of individuals who cancelled their self-exclusion after minimum exclusion period	513	67

[1] The numbers of people who have self-excluded and the numbers of people who have cancelled their self-exclusion may be lower than these figures as individuals may have self-excluded from more than one venue and thus been counted more than once. The number of breaches represents the numbers of separate incidents, rather than the number of individuals.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many gaming machines of each category have been located in *(a)* betting shops, *(b)* bingo halls, *(c)* family entertainment centres, *(d)* adult gaming centres and *(e)* pubs, clubs and other social venues in each of the last five years. [301829]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prior to September 2007, the Gaming Board for Great Britain issued certificates to those who sold and maintained gaming machines. Local authorities issued permits for arcades, family entertainment centres and other premises that had amusement with prizes (AWP) machines; and magistrates issued permits for clubs, pubs and other premises with alcohol licence permitting consumption on the premises. The Gaming Board did not formally collect statistical data about the number of machines. In 2003, using industry data, it estimated that there were 255,000 gaming machines lawfully in operation in Great Britain.

Since 1 September 2007, under the Gambling Act the provision of gaming machines has been regulated by the Gambling Commission. The table, using figures supplied by the British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA), shows the approximate number of each categorised machine and their typical locations for each year since March 2008.

Category	*Typical location*[1]	*Approximate*[2] *number of machines at March 2008*	*Approximate*[2] *number of machines at March 2009*
A	Regional casino only	0	0
B1	Casino	2,000	2,500
B2	Betting shop	27,000	27,500
B3	Bingo halls and Adult Gaming Centres (AGCs)	12,000	11,800
B4	Registered clubs	17,000	15,000
C	Pubs, AGCs and Family Entertainment Centres (FECs)	131,000	121,000
D	AGCs and FECs	72,000	71,000

[1] A full list of permitted locations is available on the Gambling Commission's website (http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/)

[2] Numbers are the British Amusement Catering Trade Association's estimates

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which external parties he has met to discuss the proposed sale of the Tote. [302007]

Mr. Sutcliffe: So far, the external parties with whom I have discussed the proposed sale of the Tote have been Paul Roy and Nic Coward of Racing Enterprises Ltd., and the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

Sport England: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated by Sport England to each of the national governing bodies for the *(a)* Grow, *(b)* Sustain and *(c)* Excel element of Sport England's strategy. [301765]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures in the following table are based upon information provided to Sport England by national governing bodies at the time their 2009-13 awards were made in December 2008.

For some NGBs (highlighted by asterisks) an exact Grow/Sustain/Excel breakdown was difficult to determine as their plans for the sport to grow and sustain participation, in particular, are hard to separate. In these cases, the figures are assumptions made by Sport England based on wider information contained in the Whole Sport Plans.

As a result of some amendments made to the final figures in contractual discussions between Sport England and the NGBs concerned, there are some minor discrepancies between the Grow/Sustain/Excel figures in the breakdown and the actual final awards made.

Sport	*Governing body*	*Grow*	*Sustain*	*Excel*	*Total*	£ *Actual award figure*
Angling	Angling Development Board	0	1,414,632	147,274	1,561,906	1,561,906
Archery*	Grand National Archery Association	428,995	428,994	0	857,989	857,989
Athletics	UK Athletics	4,304,463	11,256,229	4,886,477	20,447,169	20,447,169
Badminton	Badminton England	4,280,592	11,217,488	5,301,923	20,800,003	20,800,000
Baseball and softball	Baseball Softball UK	1,441,249	1,258,751	0	2,700,000	2,700,000
Basketball*	England Basketball	4,100,000	4,100,000	0	8,200,000	8,200,000
Boccia*	C P Sport	408,021	408,020	0	816,041	816,041
Bowls*	English Indoor Bowling Association	378,375	378,375	0	756,750	756,750
Boxing	Amateur Boxing Association	846,000	2,820,000	1,034,000	4,700,000	4,700,000
Canoeing	British Canoe Union	1,785,640	3,484,627	3,200,310	8,470,577	8,470,577
Cricket	England and Wales Cricket Board	7,571,420	23,233,082	7,198,856	38,003,357	38,003,357
Cycling	British Cycling	5,680,000	11,704,354	6,903,654	23,244,840	23,244,832
Equestrian	British Equestrian Federation	638,436	2,598,004	1,031,562	4,268,002	4,268,002
Fencing	British Fencing Association	156,212	624,848	260,353	1,041,413	1,041,413
Football	The Football Association	5,852,096	17,546,904	2,236,000	25,635,000	25,635,000
Goalball*	British Blind Sport	177,000	177,000	0	354,000	354,000
Golf	England Golf Partnership	1,737,475	7,890,375	3,297,880	12,925,730	12,851,500
Gymnastics	British Gymnastics	1,964,786	6,248,822	3,174,873	11,388,481	11,388,481
Handball*	England Handball	322,650	322,650	0	645,300	645,300
Hockey	England Hockey	1,786,260	7,667,440	2,046,300	11,500,000	11,511,000
Judo	British Judo Association	2,418,280	5,924,041	1,899,680	10,242,001	10,242,001
Lacrosse	English Lacrosse Association	909,700	920,700	380,600	2,211,000	2,210,993
Modern pentathlon	Pentathlon GB	32,750	287,789	391,282	711,821	886,496
Mountaineering	British Mountaineering Council	227,500	822,350	238,000	1,287,850	1,287,850
Movement and dance	Exercise Movement and Dance Partnership	260,568	480,984	0	741,552	741,552
Netball	England Netball	4,172,855	6,906,070	6,579,191	17,658,116	17,658,116
Orienteering	British Orienteering Federation	1,114,000	446,000	715,000	2,275,000	2,275,000
Rounders	Rounders England	1,148,180	1,051,820	0	2,200,000	2,200,000
Rowing	British Rowing	2,775,344	5,099,575	1,225,081	9,100,000	9,100,000
Rugby League	Rugby Football League	5,748,237	15,593,986	8,066,119	29,408,341	29,408,341
Rugby Union	Rugby Football Union	7,837,452	16,868,791	6,018,665	30,724,908	31,219,004

£

Sport	*Governing body*	*Grow*	*Sustain*	*Excel*	*Total*	*Actual award figure*
Sailing	Royal Yachting Association	748,600	6,317,050	2,554,350	9,620,000	9,619,542
Shooting	GB Target Shooting Federation	0	710,000	40,000	750,000	750,000
Snowsport	Snowsport England	447,050	461,790	76,160	985,000	985,000
Squash	England Squash	2,671,050	5,756,950	4,668,192	13,096,192	13,096,192
Swimming	Amateur Swimming Association	5,186,570	8,305,378	7,378,346	20,870,294	20,875,000
Table tennis	English Table Tennis Association	1,437,308	5,537,951	2,326,144	9,301,404	9,301,404
Taekwondo*	To be confirmed	375,000	375,000	0	750,000	750,000
Tennis	Lawn Tennis Association	6,359,909	15,457,080	4,983,011	26,800,000	26,800,000
Triathlon	British Triathlon Federation	1,086,401	2,165,006	1,448,456	4,699,863	4,700,000
Volleyball	Volleyball England	1,387,347	3,419,313	793,340	5,600,000	5,600,000
Waterskiing	British Water Ski	102,824	206,049	642,500	951,373	951,373
Weightlifting*	British Weight Lifters' Association	304,547	304,547	0	609,094	609,094
Wheelchair basketball	GB Wheelchair Basketball Association	120,268	479,602	121,873	721,743	727,683
Wheelchair rugby*	GB Wheelchair Rugby	240,000	240,000	0	480,000	480,000
Wrestling	British Wrestling Association	112,060	144,176	75,588	331,824	331,824
		91,083,470	219,062,595	91,341,041	401,487,103	402,102,952

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he permits rabbits to be tested more than once in pyrogen tests under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [300322]

Meg Hillier: The re-use of rabbits in pyrogen tests is permitted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Consent for re-use of animals in procedures is generally conditional upon the animal having suffered no significant adverse effects as a consequence of the first use, and its not having been subjected to any intervention which compromises its suitability as a subject for the second or subsequent protocol. Authority to re-use any animal that has experienced significant adverse effects in its previous use is unlikely to be granted.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many facilities are licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to carry out pyrogen tests on rabbits. [300323]

Meg Hillier: Home Office records show that four establishments licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 have completed statistical returns during the last three years reporting pyrogen tests on rabbits.

Ian Tomlinson

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Independent Police Complaints Commission report on the death of Ian Tomlinson during the G20 protests to be published. [301815]

Mr. Hanson: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), and the hon. Member's query has been passed to them for consideration.

Identity Cards

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who are not required to have a compulsory identity card have applied for a voluntary national identity card. [301002]

Meg Hillier: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, announced in a written ministerial statement on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 11WS that the introduction of identity cards for all British citizens will be voluntary, including those issued to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports.

Since 20 October, up to and including 24 November, 1,107 eligible volunteers, from the Greater Manchester area, London and the two airports, have made an appointment to enrol for an identity card.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who are not required to have a compulsory identity card and do not work for his Department, its executive agencies, or sponsored non-departmental public bodies, have voluntarily applied for a voluntary national identity card. [301936]

Meg Hillier: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, announced in a written ministerial statement on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 11WS that the introduction of identity cards for all British citizens will be voluntary, including those issued to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports.

Since 20 October, up to and including 24 November, 1,107 eligible volunteers, from the Greater Manchester area, London and the two airports, have made an appointment to enrol for an identity card. The information held on the National Identity Register does not include the basis of an individual's eligibility to apply for an identity card.

Identity Cards: Greater Manchester

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 430W on identity cards, how many people in Greater Manchester have requested an identity card; and what proportion of the total eligible population of Manchester this represents. [300339]

Meg Hillier: Up to and including 20 November, approximately 2,445 people from the Greater Manchester area have expressed an interest in continuing to be updated about the National Identity Service via the Early Interest Website.

Since 20 October, 749 people have made an appointment to enrol in Greater Manchester for an identity card.

From 30 November, in Greater Manchester, approximately 1.7 million people will be eligible to apply for an identity card.

Motorcycles

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances *(a)* police and *(b)* Highways Agency traffic officers may order groups of two or more motorcyclists travelling together on public highways to (i) travel separately on the same route and (ii) take separate routes. [301443]

Mr. Hanson: There is no specific power to split up groups of motorcyclists. The police and on certain roads Highways Agency traffic officers have a general power to direct a person driving or propelling any vehicle, including a motorcycle, to stop, proceed in, or keep to a particular line of traffic. It is an offence not to comply with such a direction. Exercise of the power to direct vehicles on particular occasions and in particular circumstances is an operational matter for the police and Highways Agency. It may be to reduce or prevent crime, to increase safety, or to regulate traffic.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether guidance has been provided for police forces on the policing of groups of two or more motorcyclists travelling in convoy on public highways. [301444]

Mr. Hanson: Neither the Home Office nor the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued such guidance. Policing of roads is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

Opinion Polls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library copies of the reports of all opinion polling commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [301264]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not publish hard copies of the opinion polling results to save expense but they are available electronically online. Results are regularly published on the Department's website and can be found at the following location:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/our-service-to-you/

Similarly, the results for the UK Border Agency can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/public-attitudes-surveys/

Results for the Identity and Passport Service can be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/cps/rde/xchg/ips_live/hs.xsl/22htm

The most recent sets of polling results are due to be published in the same locations before the end of the year.

Police Custody

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police custody cells there are in *(a)* Dacorum and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead; what his plans are for the future number of such cells in each area; and if he will make a statement. [301774]

Mr. Hanson: The management of the police estate and the allocation of resources in the borough of Dacorum and Hemel Hempstead is a matter for the chief constable of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire police authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

SCOTLAND

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300867]

Ann McKechin: My Department does not plan to host any Christmas parties in 2009.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300938]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The MoJ's contribution towards the Operational Efficiency Programme will be announced in the pre-Budget report.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301562]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has received no allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing since 6 June 2006.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* operating (i) Blackberrys and (ii) other mobile telephones in 2006 to 2009. [300460]

Ann McKechin: Information is not available in the form requested. The total costs of Blackberrys and other mobile phones, including the cost of equipment, call charges and line rental, are set out in the following table.

		£
	Blackberrys	*Other mobile phones*
2006-07	3,679.12	3,460.19
2007-08	2,073.78	3,983.52
2008-09	8,311.30	2,107.50

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300735]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has paid no bonuses or incentives to consultants or contractors.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302020]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no scientific advisers or civil servants in scientific posts.

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300835]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office have one contract in place to provide private hire taxi services in Edinburgh. The costs in each of the last three years are shown in the following table:

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	4,692.76
2007-08	3,987.98
2008-09	4,234.10

NORTHERN IRELAND

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [301032]

Paul Goggins: No Ministers or officials from my Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300645]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, has made no bonus or incentive payments to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors in each of the last three years.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300646]

Paul Goggins: No executive agencies of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) have made bonus or incentive payments to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors in each of the last three years.

The NIO does not hold this information for its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). This is an operational matter for each of the NIO's executive NDPBs, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective Chief Executives. Details of the NIO's NDPBs can be found on page seven of the NIO 2009 Departmental Report at

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2009.pdf

WALES

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2008-09; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300569]

Mr. Hain: In 2008-09, five staff in the Wales Office received end of year appraisal bonuses to reward outstanding performance, representing 9 per cent. of the workforce. The total figure paid in bonuses was £6,000, a non-pensionable lump sum. Each of the five members of staff received £1,200, a fixed amount set by the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Theft

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his Department's officials have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300966]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of staff of his Department work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301333]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office employs a total of five staff on a flexible or part-time working contract, which makes up 8 per cent. of the total workforce.

The Wales Office encourages flexible working. In line with the MOJ flexible working policy, all Wales Office posts are open to applicants on a job share or reduced hours basis.

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency have claimed child tax credits in each year since their introduction. [301816]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of recipient families and their entitlements to tax credits, by Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency, for each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08, are available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2008-09 is not yet available as awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, as at 1 April 2009, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. April 2009', available at the same web address.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301172]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No estimate has been made of the cost of providing official cares to Minsters and officials in the last 12 months. In 2008-09, £582,000 was spent on the provision of official cars for Ministers and officials in HM Treasury.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301542]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: From November 2008 to October 2009, 4 per cent. of Treasury recruitment campaigns only accepted online applications. In these instances, a telephone support number and email address were provided to assist candidates who had difficulties accessing the online application system.

All other vacancies allowed candidates to submit application forms via email or hard copy.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of introducing an automatic callback request feature for callers to his Department's telephone helplines in order to minimise the cost to callers. [301904]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 74W. HM Treasury has no plans to introduce an automatic callback facility.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the Exchequer of providing welfare benefits and pensions on terms equivalent to those of the armed forces pension scheme for those Gurkha ex-servicemen who retired prior to 1 July 1997; and if he will make a statement. [300422]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

There have been no recent estimates made of the cost of welfare benefits for those former members of the Brigade of Gurkhas and their dependants who have already settled in the UK or may choose to do so as a result of the discretions announced earlier this year. Nor has there been any estimate of the total cost of welfare benefits for those Gurkhas still serving who choose to settle in the UK when they leave the armed forces.

When the publication of the revised guidance was announced in April 2009, it was estimated, following cross-Government consultation, that the likely annual cost of allowing all former Gurkhas to settle in the UK would be £1.4 billion.

The cost of providing retired Gurkhas with Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) equivalent pension benefits for all pensionable service before 1 July 1997 has been estimated at £1.5 billion over 20 years.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department is taking to stimulate the house building industry; [301134]

(2) what plans he has to assist the house building industry in the next two years. [301137]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: At Budget 2009, the Government announced a £600 million housing package to stimulate housing development and boost capacity in the house-building industry. On 29 June, the Government announced in Building Britain's Future that they are investing a further £1.5 billion over the next two years to build an extra 20,000 new energy efficient, good quality, social and affordable homes, and a further 10,000 additional homes for private sale.

Taken together, over £900 million will be allocated over the next two years via the Kickstart Housing Delivery Programme to unlock development on currently stalled housing sites. We expect an additional 22,000 new homes, of which up to 8,000 will be affordable, to be delivered with support from these programmes. £340 million in funding will also be made available to local authorities to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards, expected to deliver up to 3,900 new homes.

This is in addition to previous announcements in September 2008 of support to the house-building industry and first-time buyers, including the temporary stamp duty land tax holiday and the provision of £300 million in funding for HomeBuy Direct, and the Government's fiscal stimulus at pre-Budget report 2008.

Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which projects funded under the private finance initiative have received loans from the *(a)* European Investment Bank and *(b)* Infrastructure Finance Unit; what the amount of such loans was; and in how many cases such a loan represented the single largest contribution to the cost of a project. [301612]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury's Infrastructure Finance Unit has lent £120 million to the Greater Manchester Waste PFI; the largest contribution for this project came from the European Investment Bank who lent £182 million. Details of the Bank's other lending are available from its website

www.eib.org/projects/loans/regions/european-union/gb.htm

Private Rented Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to increase to £9,000 the income tax threshold for income earned through renting a room in a property. [301452]

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average annual income each homeowner who rented out a spare room or rooms in their property obtained from such rents in the latest 12 month period for which information is available; [301062]

(2) how many homeowners in each region are renting out a room in their property; [301063]

(3) what the tax revenue to the Exchequer from homeowners renting out a [illegible] in their property was in each of the last five years. [301064]

Mr. Timms: All taxes are kept under review, with any changes announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Based on the Family Resources Survey, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimate that the average annual income obtained from renting out a room was £3,000 in 2007-08. Estimated numbers of homeowners renting out rooms by region are shown in the following table.

Government office region	*Number of homeowners*
North East	1,200
North West	5,600
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,500
East Midlands	4,200
West Midlands	6,100
East of England	11,600
London	40,200
South East	25,800
South West	20,300
Wales	3,700
Scotland	5,800
Northern Ireland	1,000
Total	130,000

HMRC's administrative systems do not hold sufficiently detailed information to estimate the tax revenue attributable to renting out a room. Estimates of the cost of the rent-a-room income tax relief are provided in 'Tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs' published alongside the annual pre-Budget report and available on the Treasury's website.

Taxation: Low Incomes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the tax cost of exempting from *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions liability those earning the national minimum wage. [301505]

Mr. Timms: It is not possible to provide a reliable estimate because of the information requirements and the behavioural effects it would produce.

The introduction of an exemption from income tax and disregard for NICs would have significant behavioural effects as it would introduce a cliff edge to the taxation of employees, and would mean that the personal allowance could be used to offset other income. In addition, a disregard for national insurance purposes would have serious implications for contributory benefit entitlement.

The alternate approach would be to increase the income tax personal allowance and primary threshold for class 1 NICs to the annual level of pay received by someone working full-time at the NMW. The cost of this can be determined from HM Treasury's "Tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs", the next edition of which will be published as part of the 2009 Pre-Budget Report supplementary documents on 9 December 2009.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel have received serious groin injuries in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq since 2007. [301908]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence publishes the numbers of personnel categorised as Very Seriously Injured and Seriously Injured as a result of Operations Telic and Herrick on its website

www.mod.uk

The figures are updated fortnightly. In addition, we are committed to publishing on a quarterly basis the numbers of service personnel who have suffered limb amputations as a result of injuries sustained while on operational deployment. However, in order both to protect the identities of small numbers of patients and to maintain operational security for the effectiveness of our protective countermeasures, we do not routinely publish VSI and SI sub-classified by other types of physical injury.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of protection provided for translators engaged by UK forces in Afghanistan. [300332]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We take our responsibilities towards locally employed staff in Afghanistan very seriously and have in place a number of measures to reduce the risks they face. Security of all staff is kept under review and actively managed, and staff are encouraged to raise any concerns. We are unable to provide specific details about these measures, as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice their capability, effectiveness and security.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinook helicopters *(a)* have been sent to Afghanistan in the last six months and *(b)* are planned to be sent for support operations in the next six months. [301446]

Bill Rammell: I am not able to give details of the numbers of helicopters delivered to Afghanistan because the release of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of our armed forces.

However, since November 2006 we have increased the number of airframes by 79 per cent. and flying hours by 95 per cent. We are also converting eight Chinook Mk 3 aircraft to a support helicopter role, with the first of these aircraft being made available for training before the end of this year, and the remaining seven being delivered to Joint Helicopter Command by the end of 2010. This will allow us to deliver more Chinooks to Afghanistan during 2010.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department makes for compensation for British soldiers who incur severe groin injuries whilst serving in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. [301910]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005 makes provision of compensation for all members and former members of the Regular Armed Forces or Reserve Forces should they be injured, become ill or die as a result of service.

Awards are tariff based depending upon the nature and severity of the injury. There is no standard provision for particular types of injury or theatre of operation.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Quick Impact Projects his Department has *(a)* supported and *(b)* participated in in the Babaji area of Helmand Province since 2001. [301911]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been no stabilisation activity in the Babaji area of Helmand Province before August of 2009, as up until the recent clearance operations, civilian-military teams were unable to gain access, due to the security situation there. The term "Quick Impact Projects" is no longer used. However, we do provide commanders with the ability to address immediate, tactical and local, consent/stabilisation issues in Babaji and elsewhere in theatre via the Commanders Stabilisation Fund (CSF). Medium and longer term initiatives in theatre (including Babaji) are the responsibility of the Provincial Reconstruction Team which is, in turn, the responsibility of the FCO.

Air Force

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours Royal Air Force pilots spent transporting dignitaries in each of the last 12 months. [302002]

Bill Rammell: For the purposes of this question we have defined dignitaries to be Government Ministers, other parliamentarians and members of the Royal family.

Dignitaries have been transported by RAF aircraft on a number of occasions over the last 12 months. The number of hours that have been spent by RAF pilots transporting dignitaries is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Air Force: Training

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours Royal Air Force pilots spent undergoing training in each of the last 12 months. [302001]

Bill Rammell: The centralised collation to record flying hours ceased in 2007-08. This information could be obtained only from individuals in squadrons or training establishments throughout the Royal Air Force at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Allergies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his policy is on the eligibility of people with nut allergies for service in the armed forces; [301607]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of service personnel in each armed service who have nut allergies; [301608]

(3) whether members of the armed forces with a declared nut allergy are allowed to serve on operations; [301609]

(4) if he will consider the merits of providing special ration packs for members of the armed forces who have nut allergies. [301610]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is our policy that armed forces personnel should be recruited to be fully fit for deployment worldwide on operations. For this reason, the services do not recruit or commission personnel with existing medical conditions which require special diets, such as those with nut allergies. We currently have no plans to review this policy.

This policy is intended to protect such individuals from military circumstances which may adversely impact upon their condition and to ensure the effectiveness of the armed forces. Although it may be possible to accommodate the special dietary requirements of those with nut allergies in a UK-based unit, or possibly on a large ship or at a major overseas base, we cannot guarantee to provide a special diet in the field or when deployed on operations, and individuals are recruited on the basis that they will be able to deploy world-wide. In such circumstances, it would be quite wrong to run risks which could impact on the individual and his or her colleagues on operations. In some cases, personnel will depend on food supplied locally, and our ability to assure nut-free status would not always be possible—as would certainly be the case if an individual were to be captured by enemy forces, for example.

The single services manage individuals who develop nut allergies during their service careers according to their specific operational requirements and each case will be considered on an individual basis. While we will make every effort to retain in-service individuals who subsequently develop this and similar conditions, provided that there are worthwhile military roles for them to fulfil, they may have to be re-graded and will probably not be able to deploy on operations. Again, this will depend on the severity of the individual's allergy; those with life-threatening allergies will almost certainly not be deployed to operational theatres, due to factors such as requirement of access to emergency treatment and storage requirements of the medication required by these individuals. This also applies to other disabilities which arise in service, but the forces do not recruit individuals where they would only be able to serve in a medically restricted capacity from the outset.

The total number of individuals who were diagnosed with nut allergies while serving in the armed forces and are currently still serving is not held centrally, and could be provided only by examining the medical records of all personnel at disproportionate cost.

Since individuals with nut allergies will not usually be deployed, ration packs tailored for such individuals are not produced. Since most food consumption on deployment is delivered by mass catering, often using local sources, and for other reasons noted above, provision of such ration packs would not circumvent the barriers to deployment for those who suffer nut allergies.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what special ration packs are provided to the armed forces to meet specific dietary requirements of service personnel. [301611]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The 24 hour operational ration pack, which is available for operations, exercises and training, includes the following variants: General Purpose, which is suitable for personnel without specific dietary requirements; Halal; Sikh/Hindu; and Vegetarian, which is also suitable for Kosher diets.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many families have been evicted from service family accommodation for failing to vacate the premises during the agreed 93-day notice to vacate period in each of the last five years; and for what reason each family was being asked to vacate premises. [301662]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service Family Accommodation (SFA) is provided to accommodate entitled Service personnel and their families. When occupants cease to be entitled to SFA and do not vacate, the Department is required to take steps to recover possession of the property. In the first instance DE will write to the occupant advising that they are required to vacate the property within 93 days. DE will be as flexible as possible and will extend this so as to accommodate children's schooling, holidays, etc. or to allow occupants the maximum possible time to secure alternative accommodation arrangements.

The number of eviction orders served on occupants of SFA in Great Britain up to April 2008 and the UK thereafter in the last five years is set out in the following table.

	Number of eviction orders
2004	110
2005	102
2006	62
2007	84
2008	113
2009 (to 24 November)	68

Records showing the reasons why entitlement to SFA ceased in each case are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many landlords of *(a)* substitute service family accommodation and *(b)* substitute service single accommodation properties are currently members of the armed forces in each region. [302085]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The occupation of the landlords who provide substitute accommodation is not recorded by this Department.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to provide armed forces personnel with body armour which includes groin protection. [illegible]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have spent £35 million over the last three years providing new body armour for troops on operations. We are continually seeking ways to protect our personnel, and work is well under way to research ways of providing additional protection for the perineal area.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [illegible]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments, and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service, was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report, and the first one covering the previous year, can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

Overall, the proportion of domestically produced food procured by MOD has increased from 43 per cent. in 2006-07 to 59 per cent. in 2007-08.

The third report of this nature will be published in due course, and will demonstrate the work being undertaken to find opportunities to source British products, while working within the legal framework governing public procurement.

We are hoping to be able to provide specific MOD figures shortly.

Departmental Land

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* television programmes and *(b)* films have been filmed on locations owned by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [illegible]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [illegible]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the 12 months up to 26 October 2009, no jobs advertised in the Ministry of Defence were restructured to online applications only.

From 26 October 2009, the Ministry of Defence is seeking to encourage the use of online applications for jobs advertised externally, via the website:

www.civilianjobs.mod.uk.

Greater online applications should deliver an improved external recruitment service and generate efficiencies. The new arrangements still permit offline applications in cases where disability prevents internet access and are fully compliant with the Office of the Civil Service Commissioners' (OCSC) principles of fair and open competition and selection on merit.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [300777]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence holds data on the percentage of total waste recycled but not specifically on the weight of paper recycled.

As part of reporting against the Sustainable Operation on the Government Estate targets, the MOD in 2008 agreed with the Office of Government Commerce a new waste baseline for MOD activities. In 2008-09 the Department recycled or reused 51 per cent. of its waste. Recycling and reuse figures prior to 2008-09, based on the best available data at the time and so not directly comparable, were: 34 per cent. for 2007-08; 37 per cent. for 2006-07; 38.5 per cent. for 2005-06, and 22.6 per cent. for 2004-05.

Devonport Dockyard

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Devonport dockyards have been issued with the relevant safety certificates to receive the Trident submarines for refuelling. [302003]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Devonport Dockyard holds the documentation that is necessary to allow the Vanguard class submarines to be received for refuelling. The documentation consists of a suite of safety cases which covers all aspects of Vanguard submarine operations, including berthing, movements and refuelling. These safety cases are required for Devonport Dockyard to maintain its site licence under the Nuclear Installation Act (1965).

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of Devonport dockyard's capability to meet the refuelling requirements of the Trident submarines. [302004]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Devonport Dockyard is fully capable of meeting the nuclear refuelling requirements of the Vanguard class submarines. The most recent assessment of this capability was completed on 7 October 2009.

This assessment included a review of the equipment, procedures and personnel required to undertake the refuelling of HMS Vigilant. Such assessments are undertaken before each refuelling of the Vanguard class

Devonport Dockyard is a licensed site under the Nuclear Installations Act (1965). This licence is granted by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and approved by the MOD Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). Operations at Devonport Dockyard are carried out in accordance with site licence conditions and the facility safety case.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many decisions for war pension awards causally linked to service for any condition other than leukaemia and polcythaemia rubra vera have made a finding that a nuclear test veteran was exposed to radiation whilst participating in UK nuclear tests. [302179]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data are not held in the format requested.

War pensions are individually determined on the basis of all appropriate medical evidence, and the War Pension Computer System (WPCS) only contains the outcomes of this detailed assessment. Therefore, although the medical conditions claimed and awarded are held, details of the specific causes of these medical conditions are not recorded on WPCS. The manual search of many thousands of files would be required to provide the information requested and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Network Centre Operations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what extent US and UK land-based military services in Iraq share a common information platform to support network centre operations (NCOs); and what innovations have been implemented to improve NCOs in Iraq since 2005. [300502]

Bill Rammell: Military information sharing between US and UK has improved since Operation Iraqi Freedom. In Iraq, information transfer was between national-only networks. In Afghanistan, UK land environment forces routinely work within the NATO ISAF information domain while keeping a smaller amount of national-only capability for information that is less readily shared with allies. The US have also taken up this approach, which means UK, US and other allies are routinely conducting operations using the same information domain.

Kentigern House

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* how much is expected to be made from the sale of and *(b)* what the projected costs to the public purse are over the 20 year lease period of the sale and leaseback of the MoD Kentigern House site. [301958]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The property was advertised for offers in excess of £47.4 million in return for a 20 year lease in favour of the Ministry of Defence, at an initial market rent of £3.511 million per annum with annual fixed increases of 2 per cent. per annum compounded every five years. There are no other additional costs anticipated.

Offers in excess of the asking price were received but remain subject to the completion of formal legal missives and are thus regarded as commercially confidential.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation was held with the Public and Commercial Services union prior to the decision being made to market the Kentigern House site on a sale and leaseback basis. [301959]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The proposed sale and leaseback of Kentigern House is an estate management initiative which does not threaten any jobs or affect the terms and conditions of employment of any Ministry of Defence employee or contractor.

Consequently, there was no need to formally consult with the trade unions, but, subject to commercial sensitivities, staff have been kept fully informed of progress by local management through a series of briefings discussions.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future status of employees of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [301657]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 25 November 2009]:* As part of our continuing drive to consider the scope for increased value for money in all aspects of Defence, we will be looking at the current arrangement for delivering Maritime Operational Support through the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of the population has access to broadband of 2 Mbps or more. [301521]

Mr. Timms: We estimate that today 89 per cent. of homes can readily get a 2 Mbps (or higher) broadband service (as reported in the Digital Britain White Paper, June 2009).

Copyright: Internet

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* he and other Ministers in his Department have discussed (i) internet piracy, (ii) online file-sharing and (iii) online digital media with David Geffen. [301586]

Mr. Timms: As we have made clear on numerous occasions there has not been any discussion with David Geffen on internet piracy, file-sharing or on digital media more generally—something that Mr. Geffen himself has confirmed. More generally Ministers do, of course, quite properly discuss these things with a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each year since his Department was established; [300649]

(2) what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300650]

Mr. McFadden: Information on bonuses and incentives paid to consultants and contractors engaged by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's executive agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Information on NDPBs is not held centrally and due to the volume of NDPBs, would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 November 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, UIN 300650, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the last three years Companies House has paid a one-off bonus of £50 each to 26 contractors on completion of the Companies Act Project. A contractual payment of £20,000 was also paid during this time as a final bonus payment to a consultant on completion of the Companies House Implementation Process System (CHIPS).

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 25 November 2009:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Office has paid no incentives to consultants or contractors in any of the last three years. The Office also paid no bonuses to consultants or contractors in any of the last three years, with the single exception that in 2008/09 one IT contractor was paid a bonus of £705.

Letter from Sarah Glasspool for and on behalf of Peter Mason, dated 25 November 2009:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 18 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The National Measurement Office has not paid any bonuses or incentives to consultants or contractors in the last three years.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 November 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what (a) bonuses and (b) incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years.

The Insolvency Service made one bonus payment in 2007 totalling £20,000 +VAT, paid to a contractor, against delivery milestones. There have been no other bonus payments made in the last three years.

Students: Loans

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each age group resident in each local authority area in the South East had not repaid their student loan at the latest date for which figures are available. [301354]

Mr. Lammy: Borrowers become liable to repay their loans in the April after they leave their course (the Statutory Repayment Due Date, SRDD). After that date those with earnings of over £15,000 will repay, usually by deductions from salary. Those liable to repay who have not yet made a repayment will include borrowers whose earnings are below the repayment threshold, have gone on to further study or are doing voluntary work.

The table covers income contingent loan borrowers past SRDD with a known repayment or non-repayment position by whether or not they have made a repayment.

Income contingent loan borrowers past SRDD, March 2009[1]

Age band	*Numbers who have not yet made a repayment*	*Numbers who have made a repayment*	*Total*
Bracknell Forest			
Less than 20	:	:	:
20 to 24	190	410	600
25 to 29	150	1,070	1,220
30 to 39	50	100	140
40 to 49	30	40	60
50 and over	10	20	30
Total	430	1,630	2,050
Brighton and Hove			
Less than 20	:	:	:
20 to 24	360	520	880
25 to 29	540	1,630	2,170
30 to 39	490	840	1,330
40 to 49	190	310	500
50 and over	60	70	130
Total	1,640	3,370	5,010
Buckinghamshire			
Less than 20	10	:	20
20 to 24	1,190	2,430	3,620
25 to 29	1,050	6,240	7,290
30 to 39	240	500	740
40 to 49	120	210	340
50 and over	60	90	140
Total	2,670	9,470	12,140
East Sussex			
Less than 20	10	10	20
20 to 24	1,040	1,660	2,700
25 to 29	970	4,530	5,500
30 to 39	290	590	880
40 to 49	170	250	420
50 and over	110	120	230
Total	2,600	7,140	9,740

Income contingent loan borrowers past SRDD, March 2009[1]

Age band	Numbers who have not yet made a repayment	Numbers who have made a repayment	Total
Hampshire			
Less than 20	30	20	40
20 to 24	2,570	5,290	7,870
25 to 29	2,220	13,830	16,050
30 to 39	600	1,490	2,090
40 to 49	370	770	1,130
50 and over	180	240	420
Total	5,970	21,630	27,590
Isle of Wight			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	310	420	730
25 to 29	280	1,250	1,530
30 to 39	80	180	260
40 to 49	40	90	130
50 and over	30	30	60
Total	740	1,980	2,710
Kent			
Less than 20	30	10	40
20 to 24	2,710	5,050	7,760
25 to 29	2,380	12,930	15,310
30 to 39	740	1,680	2,420
40 to 49	490	810	1,300
50 and over	220	310	520
Total	6,550	20,790	27,340
Medway			
Less than 20	10	[2]—	10
20 to 24	470	950	1,420
25 to 29	420	2,020	2,440
30 to 39	120	270	390
40 to 49	90	170	270
50 and over	40	50	90
Total	1,140	3,480	4,610
Milton Keynes			
Less than 20	10	10	10
20 to 24	410	830	1,240
25 to 29	410	2,110	2,520
30 to 39	130	220	340
40 to 49	60	100	160
50 and over	20	30	50
Total	1,040	3,300	4,330
Oxfordshire			
Less than 20	[2]—	10	10
20 to 24	1,270	2,240	3,520
25 to 29	1,240	6,570	7,800
30 to 39	430	930	1,360
40 to 49	190	410	600
50 and over	70	120	190
Total	3,200	10,290	13,490
Portsmouth			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	160	380	540
25 to 29	260	1,290	1,550
30 to 39	190	450	640
40 to 49	110	200	310
50 and over	40	80	120
Total	760	2,390	3,150
Reading			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	190	400	590
25 to 29	200	1,100	1,300
30 to 39	100	230	330
40 to 49	40	110	150
50 and over	10	30	40
Total	540	1,870	2,410
Slough			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	230	470	710
25 to 29	270	1,220	1,490
30 to 39	50	120	170
40 to 49	20	40	60
50 and over	10	10	20
Total	580	1,870	2,450
Southampton			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	340	500	840
25 to 29	360	1,460	1,830
30 to 39	180	440	620
40 to 49	70	130	200
50 and over	30	30	70
Total	980	2,570	3,550
Surrey			
Less than 20	20	10	30
20 to 24	2,190	4,770	6,960
25 to 29	2,060	12,590	14,650
30 to 39	440	1,040	1,480
40 to 49	210	420	630
50 and over	90	140	230
Total	5,020	18,960	23,980
West Berkshire			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	10
20 to 24	310	650	960
25 to 29	230	1,740	1,970
30 to 39	50	120	170
40 to 40	40	50	90
50 and over	10	20	40
Total	640	2,580	3,230
West Sussex			
Less than 20	20	10	40
20 to 24	1,470	2,720	4,190
25 to 29	1,380	7,510	8,890
30 to 39	360	900	1,260

Income-contingent loan borrowers past SRDD, March 2009[1]

Age band	*Numbers who have not yet made a repayment*	*Numbers who have made a repayment*	*Total*
40 to 49	220	420	640
50 and over	110	130	240
Total	3,550	11,690	15,240
Windsor and Maidenhead			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	310	650	960
25 to 29	270	1,630	1,900
30 to 39	70	120	190
40 to 49	30	50	80
50 and over	10	10	20
Total	690	2,470	3,160
Wokingham			
Less than 20	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
20 to 24	360	910	1,280
25 to 29	310	2,280	2,590
30 to 39	60	150	220
40 to 49	30	60	80
50 and over	10	30	40
Total	780	3,430	4,210

[1] Table covers income-contingent loan borrowers past SRDD and for whom at least one year of repayment history has been closed off so that the repayment/non-repayment position can be determined. Excludes transitional year loans taken out in academic year 2008/09. Gives the local authority in which the borrower was resident at the time of application for student finance; this does not indicate current residence. Figures rounded to the nearest 10. Age is shown at the end of the last tax year for which repayment/non-repayment information has been posted, mainly end of tax year 2007/08.

[2] Less than five borrowers.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Telephone Services

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to regulate telephone numbers with *(a)* 0844, (b) 0845, *(c)* 0870 and *(d)* 0871 prefixes; and if he will make a statement. [300850]

Mr. Timms: The Government have made no recent assessments as the independent regulator Ofcom has responsibility for telephone numbers in the UK.

Ofcom, in 2006, strengthened its price publication rules, requiring operators to make it easier for consumers to find out about the cost of calling 08 numbers. Operators are now required to state maximum charges for calls to 08 numbers in promotional material and also to specify whether 08 calls are included in call packages.

Calls to 0845 numbers are often charged at a small premium from fixed networks. For instance, BT's maximum charge for an 0845 call is 3.867p per minute (including VAT) but most BT customers pay no more than 1.9p per minute. There are also signs that competition is exerting downward pressure on prices. Earlier this year, BT included 0845 in its calling plans on the same basis as 01, 02 and 03 numbers and at least one other operator has since followed BT's lead.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assessed any internal or external reports on the effectiveness of its work in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [301939]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's work in Afghanistan is kept under regular review. The Government's strategy for Afghanistan has a number of medium-term goals and outcomes and progress against these is regularly assessed. Measurement indicators include progress on building the capacity of government institutions against a range of economic indicators. Ministers regularly review progress against these.

Afghanistan: Corruption

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what commitments he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from the Afghan Government regarding political reform and action against corruption; and if he will make a statement. [301978]

David Miliband: President Karzai made his commitment to political reform and tackling corruption, including the appointment of clean and competent Ministers and governors, clear in his inauguration speech of 19 November 2009. We welcome the emphasis he placed on the need for Ministers to have integrity and professionalism, and look forward to the announcement of his Cabinet. We regularly discuss the need to tackle corruption with the Afghan Government and offer technical support, for example in providing a multi-agency task force to support the implementation of an anti-corruption strategy.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whom the Prime Minister plans to invite to the forthcoming conference on the future of Afghanistan to be held in London. [301907]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has offered to hold a conference on Afghanistan in London.

We are currently working up the potential scope of the conference. More information will be made available in due course.

Belarus: Capital Punishment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representation he has made to the Belarus Government on the decision of the Belarus Supreme Court to reject the appeals of Vasily Yusepchuk and Andrei Zhuk against the death sentence; and what discussions he has had on the matter at the Council of Europe. [301243]

Chris Bryant: We and EU partners have raised the cases of Vasily Yusopchuk and Andrei Zhuk with the Belarusian authorities on a number of occasions. We also took part in a European Commission press conference on 12 October 2009 to mark World Day Against the Death Penalty. I referenced two cases in a Westminster Hall debate on the global abolition of the death penalty on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 71WH. EU member states are working with local and international non-governmental organisations to promote public debate, and publicise EU views on the death penalty. We continue to urge Belarus to abolish the death penalty or, as an initial measure, to introduce a moratorium.

The Council of Europe (CoE) plays close attention to developments in Belarus. In June 2009 the CoE Parliamentary Assembly agreed to the restoration of the Special Guest status of the Belarusian Parliament, which had been suspended in 1997, only after a moratorium on the death penalty. On 30 October 2009 a joint statement was issued by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE and the Secretary-General of the CoE calling on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to grant clemency, to declare a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in Belarus and to commute the sentences of all prisoners sentenced to death to terms of imprisonment.

Bletchley Park: Medals

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when those who worked on code-breaking at Bletchley Park will receive their service medals. [301814]

David Miliband: All eligible veterans who have submitted an application for the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge have been sent their badge and certificate. This amounts to over 2,000 applications up to and including 24 November 2009.

I attended a special celebration ceremony at Bletchley Park on 9 October 2009 to pay tribute to the vital work these veterans carried out during the Second World War. The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) will continue to send out badges and certificates to eligible veterans on receipt of applications.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which international parties are considered to be stakeholders for the consultation on the proposed creation of a Marine Protected Area for the Chagos Archipelago in the British Indian Ocean Territory; what criteria were used to decide who the stakeholders were; and what weight will be given to stakeholder responses to the consultation. [302471]

Chris Bryant: The public consultation into whether to create a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the British Indian Ocean Territory is not a limited one. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views from all stakeholders and interested parties to help the Government assess whether an MPA is the right option for the future environmental protection of the territory. We are, therefore, strongly encouraging as many people as possible to participate in the consultation.

The consultation document (pages 12 and 13) does however recognise that the international fishing community, the US, the Republic of Mauritius and the Chagossian community are all groups which may be either directly or indirectly affected by the establishment of an MPA and any resulting restrictions or a ban on fishing.

All responses to the consultation will be taken into consideration.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* entitlements and *(b)* historic entitlements apply under international law to the management of fishing stocks within the 200 mile limits of the British Indian Ocean Territory. [302473]

Chris Bryant: The management of fishing stocks within the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) is the responsibility of the UK. The BIOT Administration contracts Marine Resources and Assessment Group Ltd. to manage the fisheries of the territory. The UK is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), both through the European Commission's membership and separately and individually through the BIOT and, as such, provides data on the BIOT fisheries to the IOTC.

Colombia: EU External Trade

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the status is of negotiations between the EU and Colombia on a free trade agreement; and if he will make a statement. [301570]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The European Commission is pushing forward with negotiations towards a Multi-Party Trade Agreement with Colombia on behalf of the EU. The UK is leading efforts within the EU to ensure that any agreement with Colombia is linked to a robust human rights clause. This clause will enable us to suspend the agreement if it is breached, and will act as a catalyst for frank dialogue with Colombia on the issue. We believe that free trade agreements can help to create the right circumstances for improved stability, where human rights stand a better chance of flourishing. Denying Colombia access to the economic opportunities presented by the Multi-Party Trade Agreement would undermine this prospect.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on his Department's work with the European Commission on the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Colombia. [301894]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The European Commission is pushing forward with negotiations towards a Multi-Party Trade Agreement with Colombia on behalf of the EU. The UK is leading efforts within the EU to ensure that any agreement with Colombia is linked to a robust human rights clause. This clause will enable us to suspend the agreement if it is breached, and will act as a catalyst for frank dialogue with Colombia on this issue. We believe that free trade agreements can help to create the right circumstances for improved stability, where human rights stand a better chance of flourishing. Denying Colombia access to the economic opportunities presented by the Multi-Party Trade Agreement would undermine this prospect.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of trade unionists murdered in Colombia in the last 12 months. [301895]

Chris Bryant: I have seen various reports of the number of trade unionists murdered in Colombia in 2009. The bottom line is that a single murder of a trade unionist or human rights defender is one too many. This issue is of great concern to us. During a meeting with President Uribe while visiting Colombia in October, I urged the Colombian government to do everything possible to ensure that those in Colombia who fight to defend human rights are able to do their work in safety and without fear.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302417]

Chris Bryant: The cost of maintaining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) entire web platform in the 2008-09 financial year was £1.45 million. This covers hosting, development and support costs.

The FCO's web platform is home to 250 websites, including cross-Government websites such as

www.londonsummit.gov.uk

www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk

and our network of embassy and high commission websites. It is not possible to calculate the individual cost of the main corporate website.

The forecast cost of maintaining the 250 websites on the FCO web platform in 2009-10 is £1.45 million.

These costs do not include staff time spent updating the websites.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for staff in 2009-10. [300431]

Chris Bryant: For 2009-10 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) allocated the following amounts for variable pay in 2009-10:

(a) £7,693,418

(b) £532,667.

These bonus figures are based on a total pay bill of £213,613,185. The FCO does not pay year-end bonuses as such. Government policy is to differentiate reward to civil servants more effectively and to link it directly to performance. As a result a higher proportion of annual reward now takes the form of non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonus payments (variable pay). The FCO arrangements for bonus payments mirror those adopted by other Whitehall Departments.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300654]

Chris Bryant: Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), its executive agencies (FCO Services and Wilton Park) or its non-departmental public bodies make bonus payments to consultants or individual contractors.

Incentive regimes are rarely used for contracts with consultants and individual contractors. If incentives are included in a contract they are negotiated on a case by case basis taking care to ensure value for money. No central record is maintained of such contractual provisions.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2008; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300895]

Chris Bryant: During the financial year 2008-09, a total of 4,712 staff received a bonus payment. This represents 80 per cent. of the total workforce.

The total amount of bonuses paid was £7,597,836 and the largest single payment was £30,000. The average amount per employee was £1,286.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301324]

Chris Bryant: As at 1 November 2009 there were 163 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff working part time out of a total of 5,504, representing 3 per cent. These figures include FCO Services, which operates as a trading fund, and Wilton Park which is an agency. We do not hold central records of part-time workers in our non-departmental bodies.

We also have no central records of other types of flexible working, for example compressed hours and working from home, as these are agreed locally between staff and their line-managers. All jobs can be made available on a job-share or flexible basis, including overseas jobs, unless there is an overriding operational reason preventing it.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many honorary consuls there are; and if he will make a statement. [301881]

Chris Bryant: 243.

Government Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much Government Hospitality spent on *(a)* champagne, *(b)* wine, *(c)* china, *(d)* cutlery and *(e)* venue hire in 2008-09. [300704]

Chris Bryant: In the financial year 2008-09 Government Hospitality recorded the following expenditure:

Wines and spirits: £121,939 (including £27,136 spent on Champagne)

China: £150

Cutlery: £5,896

Government Hospitality does not meet venue hire costs for functions it organises at non-Government venues.

Middle East

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to support the Palestinian Authority in its police and security functions. [301838]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government remain committed to the reform of the Palestinian security sector as part of a wider state-building agenda. With the support of the UK (including the British Support Team in Ramallah) and others, the Palestinian Authority is working to increase the effectiveness and accountability of its police and security forces. In doing so, they are not only making west bank towns safer for ordinary Palestinians but also combating terrorism.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 506W, on Middle East: armed conflict, what are the challenges of interdiction referred to in the answer. [301966]

David Miliband: The principal challenges of interdiction are the legal constraints and the availability of resources.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the principles of the Oslo Accords of the proposal for a Palestinian state made by the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority. [301833]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Building the capacity of Palestinian institutions in preparation for statehood is a key part of the Palestinian Authority's proposal and is implicit in the Oslo Accords. The UK supports this aim and continues to pursue vigorously a two-state solution. We believe that direct negotiations between the parties involved, with the strong support of the US, the EU, and the rest of the international community, are the best way to achieve this. In seeking a solution, both parties should adhere to applicable international obligations.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the proposal for a Palestinian state made by the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority to peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. [301834]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the Palestinian Authority's plan as a contribution to building Palestinian institutions. The Government remain firmly committed to the establishment of a viable and contiguous Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with limited land-swaps of equal quality, existing alongside Israel in peace and security. We believe that the best way to achieve this is through negotiations between the parties, with the strong support of the US, the EU, and the rest of the international community.

Serbia: International War Crimes Tribunal

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Serbia's co-operation with the International War Crimes Tribunal; and if he will make a statement. [301982]

David Miliband: Serbia's level of co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) continues to improve. We look forward to the next formal presentation to the UN Security Council by ICTY Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, on 3 December 2009.

Vatican

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for a state visit from the Holy See in 2010. [301741]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Discussions by this Department on proposals for a Papal visit to the United Kingdom have taken place at official level since the Prime Minister's invitation to the Pope in February this year. To date, there has been no official announcement by either State of a Papal visit.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the security situation in northern Yemen; and what the Government's policy is on the matter. [301976]

David Miliband: The UK is increasingly concerned about the situation in northern Yemen. The conflict threatens Yemeni security and the stability of the region.

We support the right of the Saudi Government to use proportionate means to defend the integrity of their territory. We do not believe that violence is the right way to resolve disputes, inequalities and injustices. The UK does not believe that a military solution to the Huthi conflict can achieve long term success. We encourage the rebels and the government of Yemen to agree a humanitarian ceasefire, an end to all violence and to pursue a political settlement to address legitimate grievances.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* Yemen and *(b)* Saudi Arabia on the security situation in northern Yemen. [301977]

David Miliband: I last met the Yemeni Foreign Minister on 25 September 2009 when we spoke about the conflict in northern Yemen. I expressed the UK's concern about the deteriorating situation and urged him to consider a humanitarian ceasefire in light of the 175,000 internally displaced people.

I last spoke to the Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs on 9 October 2009. We discussed the UK and Saudi Arabia's shared concern about the potential for deterioration in the region.

My officials and those of Department for International Development are in daily contact with their Yemeni and Saudi counterparts at all levels. We are increasingly concerned about the situation in northern Yemen and the conflict along the Yemeni-Saudi border. We support the Saudi Government's right to use proportionate means to defend the integrity of their territory.

The situation in northern Yemen has the potential to create further instability in the Gulf region but we have seen no evidence of external interference to that end. The UK does not believe that a military solution to the Huthi conflict can achieve long term success. We encourage the rebels and the government of Yemen to agree to a humanitarian ceasefire, an end to all violence and to pursue a negotiated political settlement to address legitimate grievances.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

National Clearing House Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were purchased under the National Clearing House scheme in each of the last three years; and how many such homes were subsequently *(a)* sold, *(b)* used for affordable rent, *(c)* purchased under shared ownership and *(d)* unused. [300447]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Housing Corporation, the Homes and Communities Agency's predecessor, set up the National Clearing House to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders and operated during 2008-09.

Allocations through the National Clearing House and the purchase of unsold stock from developers through the National Affordable Housing Programme allocated a total of £350 million to provide 9,600 affordable homes in 2008-09. Of these homes some 6,300 were to be used for social rent and 3,300 for low cost home ownership.

Building Regulations

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for responding to the consultation on part J of the Building Regulations. [301641]

Mr. Ian Austin: The consultation will come to an end on 26 November. Following the end of the consultation we will need to analyse and publish a summary of responses, agree final proposals and revise the part J approved document (statutory guidance). It is planned that the revised approved document will be published by March 2010 and will come into force in October 2010.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage applications for community grants. [301616]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Communities and Local Government works with the Office of the Third Sector, and through intermediary bodies such as the Community Development Foundation, Social Investment Business, and local authorities, to promote opportunities to communities to apply for grants to help make a positive change to the lives of others and the community in which they live.

Cornwall Council

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on proposals for Cornwall council to be renamed as an *(a)* assembly, *(b)* parliament, *(c)* senate and *(d)* another designation. [301055]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have received no such representations about the renaming of Cornwall council. An order made under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 allowed the council to adopt either the name of Cornwall county council or Cornwall council; the council decided to adopt the latter name.

Departmental Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of staff in each Government Office are in SCS pay band *(a)* 1, *(b)* 1A and *(c)* 2; and what job titles fall in each such pay band. [300264]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Each Government office has one regional director at SCS PB2 and between four and eight deputy regional directors at SCS PB1. The Government offices for the north-west and west midlands also have a deputy to the regional director at SCS PB1A.

As a percentage of the total staff employed in each office, this represents:

			Percentage
Government office	*PB1*	*PB1A*	*PB2*
East of England	2.84	0	0.57
East Midlands	3.31	0	0.66
London	4.02	0	0.50
North East	2.60	0	0.52
North West	2.54	0.51	0.51
South East	2.50	0	0.50

			Percentage
Government office	*PB1*	*PB1A*	*PB2*
South West	2.96	0	0.49
West Midlands	1.97	0.49	0.49
Yorkshire and the Humber	3.87	0	0.55

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for staff in 2009-10. [300433]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government has allocated £1,276,150 for end of year non-consolidated pay awards in 2009-10:

The Department also operates a scheme for all staff below the senior civil service under which individuals or teams may receive a small non-consolidated award in recognition of an outstanding contribution over a limited period. A formal allocation of funding is not made for this scheme but a limit of 0.2 per cent. of the pay bill is placed on expenditure under these arrangements. The maximum payment under these arrangements is £600.

Departmental Work Sharing

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of staff of his Department, its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301337]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government (CLG) has 236 members of staff who work part-time, this represents 10 per cent. of the total number of staff. Data on other forms of flexible working are collected for CLG, but the proportion of people who have provided data are too low to allow meaningful analysis.

Figures for the agencies and non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All posts in Communities and Local Government are open to flexible working arrangements, including job-share; unless there is a substantive business case to the contrary showing it would be impracticable and inefficient. All posts will be advertised on this basis, whether advertised internally or externally.

Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* registered social landlord, *(b)* private and *(c)* commercial properties have been empty for longer than (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) five and (iv) 10 years. [301604]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the total numbers of vacant dwellings by tenure but not time period was provided in the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1066W. Information on the numbers of dwellings vacant for the time periods requested is not available. There are no centrally available reliable or recent estimates of vacant commercial dwellings.

Homelessness

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to reduce levels of homelessness in each region. [301704]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have allocated over £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over three years (2008-11) to reduce and prevent homelessness in their areas by offering tailored support and advice. In addition, the department also recently announced a £20 million Preventing Repossessions Fund to enable local authorities to extend small loans to families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction. We have also provided £2.5 million funding to the National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS) which is a partnership between Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABx) providing high quality advice on homelessness prevention through the network of participating CABx and other voluntary agencies across England.

Over recent months the Government have also announced a series of measures and new funding that will help homeowners remain in their home wherever possible. This help includes the £285 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme, the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme and substantial changes to Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme.

New cases of homelessness acceptances have reduced by 69 per cent. since the last peak in 2003. The latest statistics show that there were 10,520 homelessness acceptances during the period April to June 2009—32 per cent. lower than the same period last year. The proportion of homelessness acceptances due to mortgage repossessions has remained at 3 per cent.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased with the aid of the HomeBuy Direct scheme in the last 12 months. [301135]

John Healey: Provisional data from the Homes and Communities Agency shows there were 7,686 completions through Low Cost Home Ownership products including 997 Homebuy Direct sales, between April and September 2009.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/Official-Statistics-Release-Nov09.pdf

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing development sites have been brought back into production as a result of the Kickstart Housing Delivery Programme. [301136]

John Healey: 136 housing schemes have to date been announced as approved for investment under the Kickstart programme. Contracts are being finalised and workers are returning to sites over the coming weeks. Details of approved schemes are posted on the Homes and Communities Agency's website, at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/kickstart-schemes-approved-271009-region.pdf

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the supply of affordable housing. [301138]

Mr. Ian Austin: We know there is a strong case for building more housing generally and more affordable housing in particular. In order to better understand the relationship between supply and identified need CLG has commissioned a housing need analytical model from Heriot-Watt university which will improve our understanding of the impact of housing supply on housing need going forward. It is hoped this will be available to the Department by the end of the year.

There were 4 million LA and RSL owned homes in England in 2007 and we are spending £7.5 billion over the two years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to deliver around 112,000 affordable homes.

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to *(a)* extend the funding of the overcrowding pathfinders after 2011 and *(b)* create more pathfinders, including ones in rural areas. [302184]

Mr. Ian Austin: Funding in support of tackling overcrowding will be considered as part of the next spending review.

We will continue to work with our 54 local authority pathfinders in developing good practice in tackling overcrowding, which is being shared with other local authorities.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to extend the remit of the overcrowding pathfinders to include overcrowding in the private rented sector. [302185]

Mr. Ian Austin: The 54 overcrowding pathfinder authorities are tackling overcrowding in all tenures.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government plans to update the 1935 statutory overcrowding definition in line with the bedroom standard. [302186]

Mr. Ian Austin: Prior to making any change to the statutory standards we want to establish the impact, timing and cost of undertaking a phased and manageable move to a new statutory standard. Evidence [illegible] being generated through the 54 overcrowding [illegible]der authorities.

Housing: Owner Occupation

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners there were in *(a)* Norwich, North constituency and *(b)* each region in each of the last 10 years. [301885]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the number of homeowners in each region for each of the last 10 years can be found in table S135a, available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393611.xls

These estimates are based on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

Estimates for the Norwich, North constituency are not available.

Local Authorities: Place Names

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations govern the nomenclature of local authorities. [301029]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Government Act 1972 makes provision on the nomenclature of local authorities; an order under the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the application of these provisions in the case of certain new unitary councils.

Local Authorities: Powers

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional decision-making powers are available to *(a)* Cornwall council and *(b)* the council of the Isles of Scilly which each of them (i) has not so far requested and (ii) has requested and is negotiating with (A) his Department and (B) another Government department or agency. [301027]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Cornwall council and the council of the Isles of Scilly already enjoy a full range of local government powers. In response to our recent consultation, "Strengthening Local Democracy", the Leader of Cornwall council commented that powers involving the delegation of funding, duties for regional and national bodies to co-operate and the ability to flex national policy to make it appropriate to local circumstances could be helpful in relation to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum. The Government will be publishing their formal response to the consultation shortly.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was *(a)* billed to non-domestic rate payers and *(b)* collected in business rates by each local authority in the (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 tax year. [301891]

Barbara Follett: I have, today, placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each billing authority in England, the net amount of non-domestic rates that each should have collected in 2008-09 after reliefs and the amount of non-domestic rates each collected in 2008-09.

Data for 2009-10 are not yet available.

These data are also available in Table 3 of the statistical release "Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2008-09" that was published on 25 June 2009 and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates/

Non-domestic Rates: Banks

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in empty property rates on properties owned by banks with shares managed by UK Financial Investments Ltd. in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [301723]

Barbara Follett: The information is not collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government. However, we have granted all empty properties with rateable values of up to £15,000 eligibility for full relief from business rates in 2009-10. As 70 per cent. of all properties fall below this threshold this temporary relief is providing real help to ratepayers trying to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* commercial and *(b)* industrial hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief there were of hereditament rateable value of (i) below £2,201, (ii) between £2,201 and £5,000, (iii) between £5,001 and £10,000, (iv) between £10,001 and £15,000 and (v) over £15,000 in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08 and (C) 2008-09; and what the monetary value was of the empty property relief granted to properties in each such category in each such year; [301888]

(2) how many *(a)* commercial and *(b)* industrial hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief there were of hereditament rateable value of (i) below £2,201, (ii) between £2,201 and £5,000, (iii) between £5,001 and £10,000, (iv) between £10,001 and £15,000 and (v) over £15,000 before the (A) application of the £15,000 rateable value empty property rates exemption and (B) with the application of the £15,000 exemption; and what the monetary value was of empty property between relief granted to properties in each such category in each of those periods; [301889]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* commercial and *(b)* industrial hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief of a hereditament rateable value of (i) below £2,201, (ii) between £2,201 and £5,000, (iii) between £5,001 and £10,000, (iv) between £10,001 and £15,000 and (v) over £15,000 in 2010-11; and what the monetary value of empty property relief granted to properties is in each category in that year. [301890]

Barbara Follett: The information is not collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government. However, we have granted all empty properties with rateable values of up to £15,000 eligibility for full relief from business rates in 2009-10. As 70 per cent. of all properties fall below this threshold this temporary relief is providing real help to ratepayers trying to manage short term pressures in a difficult property market.

Regional Government: South West

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department provided to the South West Regional Assembly in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; how much funding he expects to provide to the South West Councils/South West Strategic Leaders Board in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the reduction in his Department's expenditure in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) in subsequent years following the abolition of the South West Regional Assembly. [301093]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has provided the following funding:

	Body funded	*Amount (£)*
2007-08	South West Regional Assembly	2,469,811
2008-09	South West Regional Assembly	2,300,164
2009-10	South West Strategic Leaders' Board	2,070,148

In 2009-10 the saving to my Department will be in the order of £230,016.

In 2010-11 the South West Strategic Leaders' Board will undertake functions connected with the production of regional strategies under part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. For this work the amount to be allocated will be subject to receipt of a business plan. In subsequent years funding for this work will be subject to the outcome of the next comprehensive spending review.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Advertising

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on the development of children of the advertisement of *(a)* food and *(b)* non-food products. [300665]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the Children's Plan we made a commitment to commission an independent assessment of the impact of the commercial world on young people.

Subsequently, the Secretary of State announced that Professor David Buckingham, Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, would lead the assessment and that it would be conducted by a panel of independent experts.

Having conducted an extensive review of the available evidence, and having spoken to stakeholders representing the broad spectrum of opinion on this subject, Professor Buckingham and his team have now completed the assessment. I expect it to be published in the next few weeks.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 107W, on children: protection, on what ground each of the 34 appeals was upheld. [300708]

Dawn Primarolo: *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* Information on appeals, including the detailed judgments and the reasons for decisions issued by the Tribunal, can be found on the First-Tier Tribunal's (FTT) website at

www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk.

The judgments issued by the FTT set out the facts of each case, the evidence presented by the Appellant and Respondent during the hearing and the FTT's reasons for its judgment.

In general terms, the burden of proof lies with the Secretary of State as Respondent. The FTT upholds an appeal if it considers, on the balance of probabilities, that

(i) in List 99 appeals, the Secretary of State's direction preventing an individual from working with children is not appropriate; and

(ii) in PoCA appeals, it is not satisfied that the individual was guilty of misconduct which harmed a child or placed a child at risk of harm and that the individual is unsuitable to work with children .

Since the reply given on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 107W, the Tribunal has re-heard (upon instruction from the High Court) one appeal which had been previously allowed and was included in the 34 appeals reported in that answer. As a result of the Tribunal's decision in this case to dismiss the appeal on re-hearing, the total number of appeals allowed by the Tribunal is now reduced to 33.

Judgments, containing the reasons for decisions, for each of the 33 appeals upheld by the Tribunal can be accessed at the following addresses:

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1014

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=882

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1011

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1012

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1003

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1010

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1002

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1008

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=275

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=341

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=342

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=906

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=297

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=303

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=345

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=274

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=396

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=288

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=354

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=361

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=965

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=379

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=433

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=880

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=949

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=977

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1038

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=974

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=888

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=1039

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=196

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=199

http://www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk/Public/View.aspx?ID=137

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [illegible]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No DCSF Ministers or civil servants will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301491]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made by staff since 6 June 2006.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff are engaged *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on handling responses to his Department's consultation on home education registration and monitoring proposals. [illegible]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: 13 staff were engaged in handling the responses: one full-time consultation advisor throughout the whole of the consultation period; a further four full-time and two part-time staff engaged to log and analyse responses towards the end of the consultation period, when the majority of responses were received; and an additional six staff helped with the analysis on a part-time basis following closure of this consultation.

Personal Social and Health Education

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account he took of the responses to the recent consultation on personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) undertaken by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency when determining his policy on making PSHE education a statutory part of the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [300762]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 5 November, *Official Report*, columns 49-52WS.

In reaching the decision to make PSHE a statutory part of the national curriculum I gave serious consideration to the responses to the consultation exercise and particularly the responses from parents. The evidence, both from that consultation and from the further, independent, research that my Department commissioned, told me that, to an overwhelming extent, parents think that good quality PSHE, taught in a sensitive and appropriate way and with the proper safeguards in place, is vital in promoting the health and well-being of young people as they prepare to tackle the challenges of adult life.

Schools: Asbestos

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons he decided to include the requirement for an asbestos survey in the standard contract documentation for the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what data on the presence of asbestos in schools he took into account in making that decision. [302010]

Mr. Coaker: The reasons we decided to include the requirement for an asbestos survey in the standard documentation are to:

reinforce the need for compliance with asbestos legislation;

find out if Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) are present; and

avoid contractual delays and financial uncertainties.

This is based on experience from previous building programmes where the discovery of ACMs during refurbishment has led to substantial delays and unforeseen costs.

Schools: Mental Health Services

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in the Milton Keynes area are participating in the Targeting Mental Health in Schools programme; and whether he has plans to extend the programme to other schools in the area. [300714]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I am pleased to confirm that Milton Keynes will join the Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) Programme in April 2010. From April 2010 all local authorities nationally will be implementing TaMHS.

Milton Keynes will receive approximately £220,000 for 2010-11 to implement TaMHS locally.

It is up to Milton Keynes to choose the schools to take part in their local TaMHS project. Our recommended model is that each local authority identifies a cluster of three to six secondary schools and their feeder primaries to participate in the programme, reflecting local need.

In line with the TaMHS grant conditions, each local authority is required to submit an implementation plan to DCSF for approval, which will be monitored against progress.

Milton Keynes, like all local authorities, will have to indicate in their implementation plan how they will sustain TaMHS provision and will mainstream TaMHS support models to all schools locally beyond 2011.

Science: Public Consultation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he plans to publish the summary of responses to his Department's science and learning consultation. [301442]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This consultation, hosted on the DCSF website, was conducted by the independent Science and Learning Expert Group, chaired by Sir Mark Walport, rather than the Department. I gather that Sir Mark intends to publish an analysis of the consultation results when the Group submits its report early in the new year.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with statements of special educational needs resident in each local authority area were educated in *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* special schools outside their local authority of residence in the latest year for which figures are available. [300667]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Compensation

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what representations she has received on the proposals published by her Department to reform the Civil Service Compensation Scheme; [301996]

(2) what discussions her Department is having with trade unions on the future of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [301997]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes) and the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) on 9 November, *Official Report*, columns 80-81W.

Civil Service No-Fault Compensation Scheme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much has been paid out under the civil service no-fault compensation scheme to civil servants in each Department in each year since the scheme was established; [300211]

(2) how much has been paid out in respect of stress-related conditions under the civil service no-fault compensation scheme to civil servants in each Department in each year since the scheme was established. [300373]

Tessa Jowell: The current Civil Service Injury Benefit Scheme was established on 1 October 2002. Benefits paid under this scheme are accounted for within the Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts, copies of which can be found in the Library. Information on the amount paid can be found within the notes to the accounts, for example within the 2008-09 accounts it is detailed at note 16.

Specific reasons for why injury benefit is awarded are not recorded within the management information that is held and therefore the number of stress-related conditions cannot be identified.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to her Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301467]

Tessa Jowell: There have been no known allegations of victimisation as a result of whistleblowing.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date she last travelled by train in the course of her official duties. [301210]

Tessa Jowell: On 16 October 2009 I travelled by train to an official engagement.

Government Departments: Corporate Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 885-86W, on Government Departments: official hospitality, if she will amend the register for hospitality received by board members of Government Departments from 1 January to 31 December 2007 to include the hospitality provided by the Chairman of the Audit Commission to the *(a)* Director General of the Department for Communities and Local Government on 18 August 2007, *(b)* Director General of the Financial and Commercial Group at the Home Department on 11 May 2007 and *(c)* Permanent Secretary to the Department for Communities and Local Government on 8 October 2007; and if she will make a statement; [301746]

(2) when she expects to publish the register of hospitality received by board members of Government Departments during 2008. [301747]

Tessa Jowell: The guidance to Departments on the recording of hospitality set out in the Government's response to the Public Administration Select Committee's Report "Lobbying: Access and Influence in Whitehall"

http//www.publications_parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmpubadm/1058/1058.pdf

makes clear that in general it is not necessary to record hospitality received from those within HM Government and non-departmental public bodies. There are no plans to amend the register.

Government Departments are publishing details of hospitality received by Director Generals and above on a quarterly basis (starting with the first quarter of 2009-10) on their own departmental websites. Information on hospitality received by board members during 2008 will be published as soon as it is ready.

Government Departments: Land Registry

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps she has taken to encourage Departments experiencing temporary increases in workload to consider outsourcing relevant tasks to Land Registry offices. [301738]

Tessa Jowell: Steps to deal with temporary increases in work load are a matter for individual Departments.

Land Registry has worked with other Government Departments on a number of projects this year, for instance the Department for Work and Pensions where 170 staff have obtained level transfers. Additionally, the Land Registry has entered into a five-year shared service agreement with Ordnance Survey.

JUSTICE

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300870]

Mr. Straw: The Department does not intend to host any Christmas parties in 2009. The Department and its agencies do not fund Christmas parties for staff, although staff may personally contribute towards the cost of such an event.

C-NOMIS Database Project

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which individual was responsible for the C-NOMIS database project up until October 2007. [300955]

Maria Eagle: There were two senior responsible owners of the C-NOMIS project up until October 2007, who had overall responsibility: initially, Christine Knott and then Roger Hill.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what financial management and oversight there was in respect of the C-NOMIS database project up to October 2007. [300956]

Maria Eagle: The C-NOMIS project board met at least once every two months. It was recognised that strengthened financial control and management was required, and a dedicated finance manager was recruited at the end of 2006. He undertook a review of all project costs which culminated in the recognition by summer 2007 that costs were unaffordable.

The revised NOMIS programme which replaced the C-NOMIS project has adopted a fit-for-purpose governance and monitoring structure and financial controls.

Community Justice Centres: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has for the future funding of community justice courts. [300251]

Bridget Prentice: There are no plans for any future Community Justice Courts. The Green Paper "Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice" set out the Government's commitment to co-location of community justice teams in existing court buildings wherever possible and plans to develop a new model of community justice teams where co-location is not practicable. The consultation stage Impact Assessment, published alongside the Green Paper, set out early estimated costs of both approaches. The costs for the community justice teams in 30 local authority areas, updated in light of the consultation, is £1.05 million.

The teams will ensure that all the agencies in the local area work closely together to engage the community and provide problem-solving for offenders. The court will remain a vital part of this approach.

Community Orders: Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of community sentences for those aged *(a)* under 18 years old and *(b)* 18 to 21 years old; and if he will make a statement. [301319]

Maria Eagle: We do not hold this information centrally. Community sentences for those aged under 18 are provided by youth offending teams (YOTs). YOTs are funded from a range of central and local sources and data are not collected centrally on what proportion of this funding is spent on community sentences. Community sentences for those aged 18 to 21 are provided by the Probation Service. Data are not collected centrally on what proportion of their funding is spent on community sentences.

Debt Management

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will bring forward plans to limit advertising by fee charging debt management providers who target vulnerable individuals in financial difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [301110]

(2) what assessment has been made of the potential to use the process for debt relief orders as a model for regulating debt management schemes; and if he will make a statement; [301111]

(3) what guidance his Department issues on the use of up-front fees for debt management schemes; and if he will make a statement; [301112]

(4) whether his Department has undertaken research into the potential financial effects on the least well-off from the introduction of statutory regulation of debt management schemes; and if he will make a statement. [301113]

Bridget Prentice: The current economic downturn is causing real hardship for many hardworking consumers and the Government are determined to do all they can to help those in financial difficulties, while balancing this against creditors' rights to recover their debts wherever possible, both now and in the future.

Currently, it is not possible for the Lord Chancellor to control either advertising or the fees charged by debt management scheme providers. However, the powers contained in chapter 4 of part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (TCEA) would permit this in respect of approved schemes.

Following concerns about the operation of this sector, the consultation paper 'Debt Management Schemes—delivering effective and balanced solutions for debtors and creditors' was published on 18 September and looks at the current operation of the debt management market. It seeks views on whether any changes are needed in this area and, if so, what those changes should be.

It sets out three broad options: continue with the measures currently under way to raise awareness about current schemes and enforce existing rules with operators (Option 1); improve current schemes without regulation, possibly through the introduction of a protocol (Option 2); or implement the Lord Chancellor's powers to approve debt management schemes contained in chapter 4 of part 5 of the TCEA 2007 (Option 3).

The consultation asks specific questions about how debt management schemes should be supervised and, for example, whether any existing scheme could be used or adapted to achieve the aims. This could include using the process for debt relief orders.

It is expected that the results of the consultation will be available in the new year, at which time the Government will announce what action they plan to take in this area. However, advertising generally will be considered during the compliance review currently being carried out by the Office of Fair Trading. Its report will be issued in spring 2010.

Separate to this consultation, the Government intend to issue guidance on what consumers should expect from debt management plan operators shortly. This guidance will explain that operators should advise on all debt assistance options available to those approaching them and give clear information about the fees that they charge. This guidance will supplement the more detailed guidance 'In Debt? Dealing with your creditors', published by the Insolvency Service on 2 July 2009.

An initial impact assessment was published alongside the consultation paper which considered the potential effectiveness of all of the options contained in the consultation paper. The impact assessment considers, as far as possible, the potential effects of all of the options on various sectors of society but also requests additional information to assist in the development of this assessment.

The consultation paper and initial impact assessment can be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/debt-management-schemes.htm

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years; [300655]

(2) what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300656]

Mr. Straw: The information requested prior to April 2009 was not kept centrally. However, according to available records, there are no contracts with consultants or contractors in my Department that have bonus payments or incentives included within them. Since April 2009, when Ministry of Justice procurement and relevant records were centralised, no contracts with consultants or contractors have bonus payments or incentives included within them.

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300830]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice purchases taxi services on a regional/local level to support the small and medium enterprises that make up the market. To achieve best value for money sites are clustered and spend is aggregated where possible, while still supporting small and medium sized enterprises.

Expenditure related to these contracts is not held centrally. To obtain this information would require approaching a large number of local business units across England and Wales and this could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* average and *(c)* shortest waiting period for entry into a domestic violence perpetrator programme was in each probation area in each year since such programmes were introduced. [300757]

Maria Eagle: Further to my answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1471W, and my letter to the hon. Member, a copy of which is placed in the Libraries of the House, the table shows the average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence or licence for offences of violence or abuse to the commencement of domestic violence programme requirements in probation areas for 2005-06 to 2008-09.

High risk offenders will be given priority by probation areas over those of medium risk. Preparation work needs to be completed with offenders before they can commence the group work element of a programme.

Offenders waiting for a place on a domestic violence programme are under the supervision of their offender manager who will monitor and actively manage the risk posed by the offender during the course of the supervision period.

The National Offender Management Service are working to reduce waiting times by ensuring staff are familiar with the referral criteria, and by improved liaison between the offender manager, the programme delivery team, and the court.

A further three domestic abuse programmes are also currently being piloted with a view to extending the range of interventions available to perpetrators.

The figures have been drawn from administrative data systems and although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The Lancashire probation area's figures have been updated since my letter of 12 November.

The table shows the average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence or licence for offences of violence or abuse to the commencement of domestic violence programme requirements in probation areas for 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Area	*Data*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	Average of weeks	40.9	39.6	47.2	40.5
	Min of weeks	1.6	9.1	4.4	7.4
	Max of weeks	102.0	101.8	166.1	103.2
Bedfordshire	Average of weeks	—	21.5	30.0	22.9
	Min of weeks	—	4.7	11.1	8.2
	Max of weeks	—	147.0	64.1	58.8
Cambridgeshire	Average of weeks	23.9	36.4	31.3	25.1
	Min of weeks	9.3	7.5	3.0	9.8
	Max of weeks	55.7	95.3	97.8	67.8

Area	*Data*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Cheshire	Average of weeks	33.8	38.1	31.4	5.0
	Min of weeks	6.7	1.7	4.0	0.1
	Max of weeks	115.0	121.5	120.1	54.0
County Durham	Average of weeks	16.6	25.6	29.4	34.1
	Min of weeks	2.0	1.1	3.5	2.8
	Max of weeks	34.4	58.0	87.3	81.9
Cumbria	Average of weeks	19.1	25.3	30.5	36.3
	Min of weeks	7.6	4.6	1.2	9.1
	Max of weeks	38.6	52.6	82.3	86.6
Derbyshire	Average of weeks	25.1	30.5	23.9	21.9
	Min of weeks	5.1	1.9	0.7	2.9
	Max of weeks	155.1	68.1	83.3	93.8
Devon and Cornwall	Average of weeks	33.0	40.6	29.0	24.9
	Min of weeks	6.1	7.7	3.0	4.0
	Max of weeks	92.1	148.2	92.8	81.8
Dorset	Average of weeks	12.0	29.0	20.0	19.9
	Min of weeks	2.5	4.1	3.2	4.1
	Max of weeks	36.9	70.2	47.9	56.1
Dyfed-Powys	Average of weeks	10.9	19.0	18.7	32.2
	Min of weeks	5.1	1.0	0.5	6.0
	Max of weeks	24.4	61.5	48.0	81.8
Essex	Average of weeks	24.6	40.5	51.0	50.2
	Min of weeks	1.1	10.1	2.8	0.8
	Max of weeks	99.1	77.5	98.8	89.4
Gloucestershire	Average of weeks	29.9	33.0	34.3	24.9
	Min of weeks	8.5	7.2	6.0	3.8
	Max of weeks	59.3	91.5	82.8	76.8
Greater Manchester	Average of weeks	37.7	47.6	33.9	23.3
	Min of weeks	5.1	4.3	5.9	4.3
	Max of weeks	97.6	91.7	95.4	58.3
Gwent	Average of weeks	34.6	41.3	42.8	44.0
	Min of weeks	11.8	12.8	2.5	4.8
	Max of weeks	62.7	101.7	109.1	111.7
Hampshire	Average of weeks	17.1	25.4	25.2	24.1
	Min of weeks	6.6	2.2	4.0	5.3
	Max of weeks	55.0	70.1	146.3	99.3
Hertfordshire	Average of weeks	21.9	30.6	38.1	24.1
	Min of weeks	5.8	2.1	4.2	5.1
	Max of weeks	44.7	57.1	98.1	79.3
Humberside	Average of weeks	10.8	25.0	27.4	27.6
	Min of weeks	0.1	0.1	5.1	11.8
	Max of weeks	27.2	56.7	81.0	47.5

Area	*Data*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Kent	Average of weeks	15.0	29.3	27.3	25.3
	Min of weeks	2.1	0.1	2.0	1.8
	Max of weeks	41.3	67.1	69.1	80.4
Lancashire	Average of weeks	16.6	26.9	26.3	24.9
	Min of weeks	3.8	0.0	0.1	0.0
	Max of weeks	52.5	75.0	83.1	132.5
Leicestershire and Rutland	Average of weeks	35.7	39.9	27.3	24.0
	Min of weeks	2.1	1.8	1.4	3.8
	Max of weeks	82.8	130.1	84.3	87.3
Lincolnshire	Average of weeks	13.2	23.8	27.5	26.0
	Min of weeks	5.5	0.3	2.2	2.1
	Max of weeks	40.1	72.3	98.0	77.3
London	Average of weeks	29.2	32.0	40.0	31.0
	Min of weeks	0.3	4.1	0.2	0.1
	Max of weeks	117.7	154.9	131.5	155.9
Merseyside	Average of weeks	32.9	25.9	32.9	34.9
	Min of weeks	5.8	2.4	2.2	2.2
	Max of weeks	128.8	86.7	88.6	126.9
Norfolk	Average of weeks	16.5	18.7	20.7	19.3
	Min of weeks	0.7	4.8	0.3	0.8
	Max of weeks	34.7	49.7	43.1	60.3
Northamptonshire	Average of weeks	20.9	29.0	29.3	28.1
	Min of weeks	6.7	7.5	4.7	2.4
	Max of weeks	62.0	85.7	151.1	77.8
Northumbria	Average of weeks	25.2	33.7	39.5	33.5
	Min of weeks	6.1	7.1	7.8	0.8
	Max of weeks	56.1	72.5	91.4	109.4
North Wales	Average of weeks	26.2	37.6	42.2	40.4
	Min of weeks	2.5	9.1	1.0	7.5
	Max of weeks	88.7	76.8	117.2	149.5
North Yorkshire	Average of weeks	11.8	16.3	29.1	22.5
	Min of weeks	2.3	0.8	0.2	1.1
	Max of weeks	41.8	54.0	102.6	74.6
Nottinghamshire	Average of weeks	—	13.1	13.7	19.1
	Min of weeks	—	0.3	3.2	1.2
	Max of weeks	—	49.3	48.2	63.1
South Wales	Average of weeks	—	23.3	34.5	38.1
	Min of weeks	—	4.3	2.0	6.1
	Max of weeks	—	63.3	117.6	78.1

Area	*Data*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
South Yorkshire	Average of weeks	43.3	43.1	41.9	21.4
	Min of weeks	2.1	1.8	3.3	1.1
	Max of weeks	102.8	77.8	105.5	87.8
Staffordshire	Average of weeks	—	14.0	14.2	17.1
	Min of weeks	—	2.1	2.2	2.1
	Max of weeks	—	53.0	39.5	45.0
Suffolk	Average of weeks	15.2	20.8	21.6	23.5
	Min of weeks	4.0	5.1	4.5	3.7
	Max of weeks	30.8	80.4	67.7	63.8
Surrey	Average of weeks	19.0	28.5	30.4	29.5
	Min of weeks	6.0	12.8	9.1	8.8
	Max of weeks	42.5	59.5	72.8	68.5
Sussex	Average of weeks	29.1	27.5	20.9	25.3
	Min of weeks	7.5	1.5	6.1	1.1
	Max of weeks	73.8	72.4	42.4	59.8
Teesside	Average of weeks	6.3	25.2	42.1	42.3
	Min of weeks	4.4	6.8	17.6	10.7
	Max of weeks	9.1	43.4	79.3	86.4
Thames Valley Area	Average of weeks	28.3	33.0	31.0	26.5
	Min of weeks	1.8	2.0	0.8	0.5
	Max of weeks	145.0	74.5	87.5	77.7
Warwickshire	Average of weeks	—	20.6	31.4	38.6
	Min of weeks	—	5.8	15.8	17.8
	Max of weeks	—	61.0	47.3	99.5
West Mercia	Average of weeks	—	13.0	24.7	27.1
	Min of weeks	—	1.0	3.5	3.7
	Max of weeks	—	33.7	79.3	64.7
West Midlands	Average of weeks	17.2	28.7	34.5	29.0
	Min of weeks	7.2	1.1	1.2	2.1
	Max of weeks	60.5	57.3	75.0	102.2
West Yorkshire	Average of weeks	29.2	28.6	26.0	27.0
	Min of weeks	1.4	0.0	0.3	0.1
	Max of weeks	124.1	161.5	81.2	115.8
Wiltshire	Average of weeks	35.2	35.7	33.7	29.8
	Min of weeks	9.4	2.3	2.3	11.4
	Max of weeks	80.8	103.3	77.1	81.7

Fixed Penalties: Fines

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will reject any proposals to introduce a victims' surcharge for fixed penalties and on the spot fines; and if he will make a statement. [300468]

Claire Ward: It is Government policy that, where possible, offenders should contribute to victims' services as part of their reparation. Provisions were therefore included in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 providing for a surcharge to be payable on criminal convictions, penalty notices for disorder and on fixed penalty notices for road traffic offences where the offences are persistent and serious.

The victim surcharge was introduced on 1 April 2007 and has been applied initially only to fines imposed in magistrates and Crown courts at a rate of £15. We intend to add the surcharge to other disposals as soon as it becomes feasible to do so. Proceeds raised from the surcharge provide a ring-fenced source of funding for a wide variety of organisations providing non-financial support to victims and witnesses of crime.

Magistrates' Courts: Welsh Language

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department has spent on translating summonses into Welsh in each month since January 2009; and if he will make a statement; [301483]

(2) how many requests there have been for summonses to be translated into Welsh in each month since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [301484]

Bridget Prentice: From 9 December 2008 to 13 September 2009, HMCS operated a national process for manual translation of documents into Welsh. This was the period between completion of Libra IT rollout across all magistrates' courts, and the release of the bilingual version of the system. During this time documents were manually translated upon request, within one working day.

Since 13 September, bilingual documents have been produced automatically from Libra where customers indicate a Welsh language preference.

From January 2009 to September 2009, HMCS spent a total of £2,605 on manual translation of summonses into Welsh. The following table gives a breakdown per month.

Cost of translation of Libra documents into Welsh (from January to September 2009)

Month	*Cost (£)*
January 2009	410.00
February 2009	365.00
March 2009	620.00
April 2009	270.00
May 2009	170.00
June 2009	305.00
July 2009	240.00
August 2009	150.00
September 2009	75.00
Total	2,605.00

Number of requests

	Number
January 2009	19
February 2009	38
March 2009	42
April 2009	33
May 2009	36
June 2009	58
July 2009	44
August 2009	38
September 2009	26
Total	334

Mentally Ill: Health Services

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the operational cost per patient per year of a *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high security mental health unit. [300798]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The latest figures for the cost per patient per year in a high secure hospital for 2009-10 is £291,780 (figures from the service level agreement with the hospitals). This is the average cost per annum for all high secure services except for patients with dangerous and severe personality disorder.

The latest figures for costs for patients in medium and low secure units are the 2007-08 NHS reference costs. For 2007-08, the national average cost per patient per year in a medium secure unit was £171,915 (based on cost per patient per bed day of £471). For the same period, the national average cost per patient per year for low secure mental health units was £142,715 (based on cost per patient per bed day of £391).

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many patient places in *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high security mental health units were vacant at 1 June 2009. [300800]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

At 1 June 2009 there were a total of 771 commissioned patient beds in high secure units (excluding dangerous and severe personality disorder services). On that date, there were 691 inpatients. In addition, there were 55 high secure patients on trial leave to other secure services.

Figures are not available for vacancies broken down by low and medium secure units. Information is available on the average daily number of mental health and learning disability beds in national health service secure units, and this is contained in the following table.

Average daily number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units 2008-09

Available Mental illness	3,292
Occupancy Mental illness	2,885
Available Learning Disability	554
Occupancy Learning Disability	508

Source:
The Department of Health Dataset KH03.

National Offender Management Service: Consultants

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Offender Management Scheme spent on consultants in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [300262]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice was formed on the 9 May 2007. This merger included the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). NOMS previously formed part of the Home Office.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold data in relation to NOMS, including on consultancy costs, for years prior to 2007.

The Ministry of Justice is in the process of implementing a new procurement system that will capture data on consultancy spend. Implementation is due to be completed in the new year, and the information will be available in the second quarter of 2010.

National Probation Trust Programme: Expenditure

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* projected actual cost of the National Probation Trust Programme was for 2009-10. [300280]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Resource total (£)
Forecast outturn	3,361,184
Annual budget	3,611,184
Forecast variance	250,000

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what total budget was set for the National Probation Trust Programme over the lifetime of the programme; and what his latest estimate is of the total projected cost of the programme. [300281]

Maria Eagle: The allocation of funds to the Probation Trust Programme has been managed on an annual basis. The annual differences in allocation reflect the changes to the scale and scope of the programme in each of the three years.

Throughout its lifetime the programme has consistently come in under budget; this is as a consequence of in-year changes to the scope of the programme.

The total budget allocation for the Probation Trust Programme is £11.095 million; the latest estimated cost over the three years is £8.346 million.

Offenders: Mentally ill

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the relative effectiveness in alleviating mental health problems of *(a)* prison, *(b)* secure mental health units and *(c)* other disposals. [300802]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning mental health care in prisons. Where possible they aim for an equivalent service to that provided in the community with general practitioners providing the initial assessment and a gateway to psychological therapies, visiting psychiatrists and prison in reach teams. When prisoners' mental health problems require them to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act, they are transferred to secure mental health units.

Measuring relative effectiveness is complicated by the different levels of care provided in each setting. However, the Department has recently commissioned a call for research into the evidence base on secure forensic inpatient services in England (high, medium and low secure forensic services). This review will systematically assess the context and mechanisms through which high, medium and low secure forensic inpatient services produce outcomes. It is envisaged this review will improve current evidence about why services work, what might work in specific circumstances, and the impact on resources, deliverability and health equity.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projects the Office for Criminal Justice Reform has funded in each year since it was created; and how much funding was provided for each such project. [301479]

Claire Ward: To provide the information requested for all the years since the Office for Criminal Justice Reform was created would incur disproportionate cost. Information is readily available for 2008-09: financial information for the projects the Office for Criminal Justice Reform supported in for 2008-09 is shown in the table.

In addition to the projects shown in the table, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform supports local projects through the Community Cashback scheme. The scheme (worth £4 million this year) gives local people a say in how recovered criminal assets should be used to support local communities.

Details of the projects supported by Community Cashback can be found at:

http://cashback.cjsonline.gov.uk/

OCJR funded projects 2008-09 and 2009-10

£ million

	2008-09		2009-10	
Project	*Resource*	*Capital*	*Resource*	*Capital*
Business Change Projects				
Exchange Links—Sharing information between CJS agencies' IT systems	4.67	—	—	—
PROGRESS—IT tool to track court directions	1.18	0.50	0.20	—
CJS Exchange Improvements (Virtualisation)	—	1.41	—	—
Bichard Recommendation 7	5.74	3.17	1.90	2.99
Postal Charging	0.48	0.37		0.15
Virtual Courts	1.29	1.99	0.50	0.75
eYOT—Development of Case Management System for youth offending teams	—	2.00	0.77	3.40
Warwickshire Justice Centre	—	—	—	2.00
YJB to Probation—information handoff	—	—	0.50	—
Disruption of mobile 'phones in prisons	—	—	—	0.79
Conditional cautions	0.72	—	0.10	—
British Transport Police—Exchange Links	—	—	0.25	—
Piloting of Live Links for all Witnesses (except defendants)	0.04	—	—	—
Victim Intermediaries	0.23	—	—	—
Developing the capacity and capability of LCJBs (Beacons approach)	0.33	—	—	—
Witness Charter	0.03	—	—	—
Maximising Video Conferencing Programme	0.29	—	—	—
Prison to Court Video Links	0.12	—	—	—

OCJR funded projects 2008-09 and 2009-10

£ million

Project	*2008-09* *Resource*	*2008-09* *Capital*	*2009-10* *Resource*	*2009-10* *Capital*
Development of Compliance and Enforcement measure	—	—	0.15	—
Strategy Projects				
Waterfall/CJS unit costs	0.03	—	—	—
Strategy reviews	0.06	—	0.25	—
Research Projects				
CJS Modelling	0.30	—	—	—
Improving CJS Data Quality	0.30	—	0.18	—
Local Criminal Justice Board Guidance—community engagement	0.03	—	—	—
Postal Requisitions—evaluation	0.04	—	—	—
Victim Service Mapping	0.11	—	0.08	—
Research on Conditional Cautions for Women	0.02	—	0.04	—
Research—Women and the Criminal Justice System	0.04	—	—	—
Communications and Confidence	0.02	—	—	—
Virtual Courts—evaluation	—	—	0.12	—
Community Payback	—	—	0.09	—
Research—Efficiency and Effectiveness	—	—	0.20	—
Research—Supporting Local Delivery	—	—	0.23	—
Local Delivery Projects				
LCJB Innovation Fund	0.10	—	—	—
Realising the Potential of LCJBs	1.70	—	2.34	—
Race and Confidence Projects				
Race and Confidence Challenge Fund	0.25	—	0.10	—
Diagnostic Tool to support delivery of PSA Indicator 4 (Race Disproportionality)	0.03	—	0.01	—
Race for Justice A[illegible]on Plan	—	—	0.05	—
Community e[illegible]athfinder areas	—	—	2.55	—
Victims and Witnesses Projects				
Review of Code of Practice for Victims	0.03	—	0.10	—
Development and roll out of Good Practice Toolkit for Child Witnesses	0.01	—	0.19	—
Funding for LCJBs to support delivery of Indicator 3 (Victim and Witness Satisfaction)	0.25	—	—	—
Development of Strategy to Support Children and young people who are victims of crime	0.02	—	—	—
Review of Victim Support's Witness Services	0.13	—	0.25	—
Review of Victims Advisory Panel	0.01	—	—	—
Victims Pledge—improving support for young victims of crime	—	—	0.50	—
Total	18.58	9.44	11.14	10.08

Prison Sentences

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places are available at each prison serving the Greater Manchester area when at full capacity; and how many prisoners were serving sentences at each such prison on the latest date for which figures are available. [300817]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners serving sentences in prison establishments in the North West region at the end of June 2009, the latest date for which figures are available.

Establishment	*Operational capacity*	*Sentenced population*	*Held on remand and civil offenders*	*Total held in custody*
Altcourse	1324	975	339	1,314
Buckley Hall	381	377	0	377
Forest Bank	1160	697	447	1,144
Garth	847	817	0	817
Hindley	515	218	71	289
Haverigg	644	629	0	629

Establishment	*Operational capacity*	*Sentenced population*	*Held on remand and civil offenders*	*Total held in custody*
Kirkham	590	566	2	568
Kennet	342	336	0	336
Lancaster Castle	243	228	0	228
Lancaster Farms	530	392	101	493
Liverpool	1,445	990	347	1,337
Manchester	1,286	846	380	1,226
Preston	842	411	335	746
Risley	1,093	1,079	1	1,080
Styal	458	317	133	450
Thorn Cross	322	301	0	301
Wymott	1,144	1,126	1	1,127
Total	13,166	10,305	2157	12,462

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by area managers on the basis of operational judgment and experience.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners sentenced to serve an indeterminate sentence for public protection were over tariff *(a)* having had a parole hearing and *(b)* not yet having had a parole hearing on the most recent date for which figures are available; [300818]

(2) how many cases involving prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection processed by the Parole Board were *(a)* resolved, *(b)* deferred or adjourned at the hearing and *(c)* deferred or cancelled at the pre-hearing stage in each month in each of the last five years. [300819]

Maria Eagle: We are in the process of undertaking an audit of data on outstanding parole reviews for prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP). I will write to the hon. Member, once the audit is complete and will place a copy of the reply in the Library.

The number of prisoners serving IPP sentences, whose parole applications were referred to the Parole Board, and which were *(a)* resolved, *(b)* deferred or adjourned at the hearing and *(c)* deferred or cancelled at the pre-hearing stage in each month since the inception of IPP sentences are shown in the tables below. The information has been collated from data held by the Parole Board. It is broken down by month and financial year categorised as: resolved by oral hearing; resolved by paper decision; deferred or adjourned at hearing; and cancelled or deferred before the hearing was convened. (The monthly split for cases deferred or adjourned at the hearing is not available for the financial year 2006-07.)

2006-07

	Resolved by oral hearing	*Resolved by paper decision*	*Deferred or adjourned at hearing*	*Cancelled or deferred pre-hearing*
April 2006	3	0	n/a	0
May 2006	0	0	n/a	2
June 2006	1	0	n/a	1
July 2006	1	0	n/a	2
August 2006	2	0	n/a	0
September 2006	3	0	n/a	4
October 2006	2	0	n/a	5
November 2006	5	0	n/a	3
December 2006	7	0	n/a	1
January 2007	5	0	n/a	4
February 2007	10	0	n/a	5
March 2007	11	0	n/a	6
Financial year total	50	0	[1]24	33

[1] This is the annual total as monthly figures are not available for 2006-07

2007-08

	Resolved by oral hearing	*Resolved by paper decision*	*Deferred or adjourned at hearing*	*Cancelled or deferred pre-hearing*
April 2007	12	0	1	6
May 2007	11	0	2	3
June 2007	22	0	3	6
July 2007	30	0	3	16
August 2007	15	0	0	6
September 2007	33	0	8	11

2007-08

	Resolved by oral hearing	*Resolved by paper decision*	*Deferred or adjourned at hearing*	*Cancelled or deferred pre-hearing*
October 2007	13	0	4	0
November 2007	32	8	7	11
December 2007	17	0	6	2
January 2008	8	4	3	3
February 2008	6	3	4	6
March 2008	10	10	3	2
Financial year total	209	25	44	72

2008-09

	Resolved by oral hearing	*Resolved by paper decision*	*Deferred or adjourned at hearing*	*Cancelled or deferred pre-hearing*
April 2008	18	3	5	5
May 2008	21	9	5	3
June 2008	30	5	4	11
July 2008	25	3	10	13
August 2008	32	0	9	5
September 2008	40	2	7	11
October 2008	47	[1]0	8	8
November 2008	45	9	13	8
December 2008	49	13	14	19
January 2009	31	7	14	18
February 2009	54	33	16	20
March 2009	41	35	18	10
Financial year total	433	119	123	131

[1] Figures for resolved by paper decision are not available for October 2008

2009-10

	Resolved by oral hearing	*Resolved by paper decision*	*Deferred or adjourned at hearing*	*Cancelled or deferred pre-hearing*
April 2009	46	28	4	14
May 2009	46	46	6	12
June 2009	84	35	21	23
July 2009	84	25	21	24
August 2009	47	31	21	22
September 2009	83	38	10	19
Financial year total	390	203	83	114

Prisoners Transfers

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the recent inquiry into the inappropriate transfer of prisoners between HM Prison Pentonville and HM Prison Wandsworth has considered whether staff should be dismissed; and if he will make a statement. [300947]

Maria Eagle: In each case, the hearing authority considered the allegations against individual members of staff in the light of all of the available evidence. The allegations were found proven against three members of staff who consequently received disciplinary penalties.

Staff Transfers

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the staff of the Legal Complaints Service (LCS) will have the right to move to the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC) under transfer of undertakings, protection of employment regulations when the work of the LCS is transferred to the OLC. [301417]

Bridget Prentice: I realise that this is an uncertain and anxious time for many staff, but can assure you that an announcement will be made in the near future.

However, I would emphasis that in establishing the OLC, we are creating a completely new culture in complaints handling. The Legal Services Act 2007 introduces a fresh approach to the regulation of legal services and the change in complaints handling is an integral part of that.

We are currently in discussion with the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC), the Law Society and other approved regulators on the practical requirements for transition from the old complaints handling regime to the new system under the OLC, and the implications this will have on staff employed by the current complaints handling bodies. It is essential throughout this process that the high standard of service consumers expect is maintained, while also ensuring that staff receive full support. Any arrangement will be aligned with the assurance I made to this House that, in creating the OLC, the principles of TUPE will apply to the transfer of staff.

Prisons: Drugs

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of dispensing methadone prescriptions in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [300946]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally. Since 2006, the national health service has been responsible for the commissioning of clinical services in prisons, including the administration of medicines. Individual budgetary costs are therefore the concern of local NHS primary care trusts (PCTs).

With the introduction of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), methadone treatment for drug dependence has become increasingly available in p[illegible]n. The purpose of IDTS is to bring improvements to the quality and volume of drug treatment in prisons. Since 2006, the Department of Health has allocated four waves of IDTS funding to NHS PCTs to implement enhanced prison clinical drug treatment:

	Funding (£ million)
2006-07	7.8
2007-08	11.5
2008-09	23.2
2009-10	[illegible]7

Probation: Expenditure

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated outturn of each probation area budget for financial year 2010-11 was at the time the budgets were set; and what his most recent estimate is. [300263]

Maria Eagle: There is no estimated outturn for 2010-11. However the forecast outturn for 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

	£000
Durham Probation Board	10,615
Northumbria Probation Board	28,608
Teesside Probation Board	13,409
Dyfed Powys Probation Trust	8,880
Gwent Probation Board	10,805
North Wales Probation Board	12,317
South Wales Probation Trust	24,385
Humberside Probation Trust	18,543
North Yorkshire Probation Board	9,816
South Yorkshire Probation Board	25,003
West Yorkshire Probation Board	41,789
Cheshire Probation Board	15,162
Cumbria Probation Board	8,667
Greater Manchester Probation Trust	52,942
Lancashire Probation Trust	24,532
Merseyside Probation Trust	32,550
Staffordshire Probation Board	16,904
Warwickshire Probation Board	7,177
West Mercia Probation Trust	15,217
West Midlands Probation Board	57,319
Bedfordshire Probation Board	9,475
Cambridgeshire Probation Board	10,098
Essex Probation Board	19,302
Hertfordshire Probation Board	11,464
Norfolk Probation Board	11,582
Suffolk Probation Board	10,019
Hampshire Probation Board	24,834
Kent Probation Board	21,470
Surrey Probation Board	10,564
Sussex Probation Board	18,074
Thames Valley Probation Board	25,776
Derbyshire Probation Board	14,186
Leicestershire Probation Trust	15,273
Lincolnshire Probation Board	9,464
Northamptonshire Probation Board	9,279
Nottinghamshire Probation Board	19,327
Avon and Somerset Probation Board	20,453
Devon and Cornwall Probation Board	20,351
Dorset Probation Board	9,445
Gloucestershire Probation Board	7,881
Wiltshire Probation Trust	8,064
London Probation Board	151,093
Total	892,185

Overall probation is forecasting an underspend of £2 million for 2009-10.

Sentencing: Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 years old received a (i) community rehabilitation order, (ii) supervision order, (iii) community punishment order, (iv) attendance centre order, (v) curfew order, (vi) reparation order, (vii) action plan order and (viii) referral order in the most recent year for which figures are available. [301320]

Claire Ward: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Persons sentenced to community sentences by age and type of sentence, 2007: England and Wales

	Number of persons	
	Under 18	*18*
Community Rehabilitation Order	1,851	169
Supervision Order	11,952	[1]—
Community Punishment Order	1,915	101
Attendance Centre Order	3,199	139
Curfew Order	4,699	290
Reparation Order	4,055	[1]—
Action Plan Order	4,865	[1]—
Referral Order	32,142	[1]—

[1] Not applicable. These orders can only be given to those aged under 18.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. Totals for 18-year-olds will not include any offenders aged 18 whose age was not recorded in court IT systems.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks on ambulance staff there have been in each constituency in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [301410]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2004-05, the number of physical assaults against staff reported by national health service bodies in England has been collected annually by the NHS Security Management Service.

The numbers of physical assaults reported against staff by the ambulance trusts serving Lancashire in the period 2004-05 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15	9	—	—	—
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	—	—	166	234	169

Note:
The North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust was established on 1 July 2006 as an amalgamation of the Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, the Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust, the Merseyside and Cheshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Bone Marrow Disorders: Donors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of patients who have received treatment for bone marrow cancer received bone marrow from *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK donors in the latest period for which figures are available; [300669]

(2) what proportion of UK cancer patients received bone marrow from US donors in the latest period for which figures are available. [300670]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* admissions and *(b)* emergency admissions for breast cancer there have been in (i) England, (ii) each primary care trust area of responsibility and (iii) each cancer network area of responsibility, as recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database in each of the last five years. [300549]

Ann Keen: Tables showing count of finished admission episodes and emergency finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was breast cancer have been placed in the Library. The information has been provided for England and for primary care trusts. Information is not centrally held for cancer networks.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency bed days were accounted for by breast cancer patients in each year since 1997-98 (A) in total and (B) broken down by (i) primary care trust area of responsibility and (ii) cancer network area of responsibility, as recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database; and at what overall cost to the public purse. [300551]

Ann Keen: Tables showing the count of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days where the primary diagnosis was breast cancer, separated into emergency and elective admissions and split by primary care trust responsibility, for the years 1997-08 to 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

FCE bed day data are not available at cancer network level. Information on the cost of bed days is not available centrally.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of mastectomies to breast conserving surgical procedures was in *(a)* England, *(b)* each cancer network and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [300554]

Ann Keen: Tables showing ratio of mastectomies to breast conserving surgical procedures where breast cancer was recorded have been placed in the Library.

The information has been provided for England and for primary care trusts. Information is not centrally held for cancer networks.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women undergoing surgery for breast cancer received immediate breast reconstruction surgery in *(a)* England, *(b)* each cancer network and *(c)* each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [300555]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The National Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction Audit (NMBRA) only collects data on patients having mastectomy for breast cancer, not all surgery for breast cancer. The data are available at a national and cancer network level, but not at primary care trust level.

The data has been taken from the NMBRA 2 Annual Report, published in October 2009. This publication is available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/services/national-clinical-audit-support-programme-ncasp/audit-reports/mastectomy-and-breast-reconstruction

The audit collected data on patients who have had a mastectomy, with or without immediate reconstruction, or delayed reconstruction for breast cancer mastectomy patients between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2009.

When the aAudit closed for submissions 15,479 female mastectomy patients had been entered into the data collection system. Of these 3,216 women underwent immediate breast reconstruction.

Percentage of women by cancer network who accepted an offer of an immediate reconstruction

Cancer network	*Compliance (percentage)*
3 Counties	26.5
Anglia	21.4
Arden	12.8

Percentage of women by cancer network who accepted an offer of an immediate reconstruction

Cancer network	*Compliance (percentage)*
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	21.1
Central South Coast	23.3
Derby/Burton	16.3
Dorset	13.7
Essex	42.8
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	16.1
Greater Midlands	18.0
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	26.2
Kent and Medway	17.1
Lancashire and South Cumbria	19.3
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	9.1
Merseyside and Cheshire	22.3
Mid Trent	18.6
Mount Vernon	20.0
North East London	23.6
North London	25.9
North of England	9.9
North Trent	10.5
Pan Birmingham	11.1
Peninsula	13.7
South East London	34.5
South West London	31.7
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	36.1
Sussex	25.2
Thames Valley	17.7
West London	24.4
Yorkshire	16.8

Notes:

1. All eligible national health service trusts in England have participated in the Audit but case ascertainment is not 100 per cent. for all trusts. Therefore the audit's data does not cover all eligible patients.
2. The second Annual Report reported on the 30 cancer networks that existed when the audit began in January 2008. Subsequently, Mid Trent; Derby/Burton; and Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland combined to become East Midlands Cancer Network, and there are currently 28 cancer networks.

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage compliance was of each cancer network with *(a)* 3A and *(b)* 1E-1 measures, as set out in section 8.5 of his Department's Cancer Commissioning Guidance published in December 2008. [300557]

Ann Keen: The Manual for Cancer Services (2004) contains a number of quality measures for commissioners and providers of national health service services. Compliance against the measures was last reviewed under the National Cancer Peer Review Programme 2004-07.

The following table shows the percentage of cancer networks that were compliant with quality measure 3A, which covers cross-cutting services provided by specialist palliative care multi-disciplinary teams.

Percentage of cancer networks compliant with measure 3A (The Specialist Palliative Care Team) of the Manual for Cancer Services (2004)

Cancer network	*Compliance (percentage)*
3 Counties	65
Anglia Cancer Network	51
Arden	61
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	64
Central South Coast	56
Derby/Burton	90
Dorset	81
Essex Cancer Network	67
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	68
Greater Midlands	60
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	58
Kent and Medway	65
Lancashire and South Cumbria	33
Leicester, Northamptonshire, Rutland	70
Merseyside and Cheshire	61
Mid Trent	82
Mount Vernon	41
North East London	69
North London	41
North of England Cancer Network	70
North Trent	72
Pan-Birmingham	57
Peninsula	68
South East London	68
South West London	81
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	59
Sussex	14
Thames Valley	57
West London	67
Yorkshire	77

Source:

National Cancer Peer Review Programme 2004-07

The following table shows the percentage of cancer networks that were compliant with quality measure 1E-1, which covers cross-cutting services for palliative care across network palliative care groups.

Percentage of cancer networks compliant with measure 1E-1 (Functions of the Network Palliative Care Group) of the Manual for Cancer Services (2004)

Cancer network	*Compliance (percentage)*
3 Counties	74
Arden	70
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	74
Black Country	70
Cancer Care Alliance	65
Central South Coast	83
Derby/Burton	100
Dorset	78
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	74
Greater Midlands	48
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	52
Kent and Medway	87
Lancashire and South Cumbria	17
Leicester, Northamptonshire, Rutland	74
Merseyside and Cheshire	78
Mid Trent	96
Mount Vernon	22
North East London	57
North London	43
North of England Cancer Network	91
North Trent	65
North West Midlands	22
Pan-Birmingham	43
Peninsula	61
South East London	70
South Essex	61
South West London	87
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	65
Sussex	35
Thames Valley	96
West Anglia	61

Percentage of cancer networks compliant with measure 1E-1 (Functions of the Network Palliative Care Group) of the Manual for Cancer Services (2004)

Cancer network	*Compliance (percentage)*
West London	52
Yorkshire	83

Source:
National Cancer Peer Review Programme 2004-07

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated total expenditure on *(a)* cancer care and *(b)* breast cancer care was in (i) England, (ii) each cancer network area and (iii) for each primary care trust in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on (A) inpatient costs excluding those relating to surgery, (B) surgery including daycare and inpatient stays, (C) drugs, cost of medicine preparation and administration, (D) outpatients, diagnostics, first and follow-up appointments, (E) screening, (F) radiotherapy, (G) specialist palliative care (excluding voluntary sector) and (H) other, calculated through the same method as that used to calculate the chart on page 119 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007 in each year. [300552]

Ann Keen: Tables showing estimated expenditure on cancer care and breast cancer care for England, primary care trusts (PCTs) and cancer networks have been placed in the Library.

Information on cancer care has been provided for England and PCTs for the last five years. Information on cancer care has been provided for cancer networks from 2004-05, as this is the first year that the information became available. Information for breast cancer care has been provided from 2006-07 as this is the first year that data were collected at sub-category level for a number of tumour types.

The information requested on in-patient costs excluding those relating to surgery, surgery including daycare and in-patient stays, drugs, cost of medicine preparation and administration, outpatients, diagnostics, first and follow-up appointments, screening, radiotherapy, specialist palliative care (excluding voluntary sector) and "other" is not routinely available.

The estimated total national health service spend on cancer care represented in the graph on page 119 of the Cancer Reform Strategy was an analysis commissioned specifically for inclusion in the strategy. It was based on a wide range of data from 2005-06, and the sources of these data are quoted in the strategy. An estimated NHS spend on cancer care under the same categories of that graph is not available for any other years, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Cholesterol

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has given to primary care trusts on the delivery of cascade testing for families of patients diagnosed with familial hypercholesterolemia; [300465]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of provision of cascade testing for families of patients diagnosed with familial hypercholesterolemia by primary care trusts in England, as recommended in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline 71; [300466]

(3) what measures his Department has in place to monitor the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on familial hypercholesterolemia; and if he will make a statement. [300467]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any assessment or given any guidance to primary care trusts on the delivery of cascade testing for families diagnosed with familial hypercholesterolemia and has no plans to do so.

The Department has no measures in place to monitor the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on familial hypercholesterolemia. We are facilitating work on a Primary Care Services Framework on familial hypercholesterolemia which is underway at the moment.

The Department has commissioned NHS Primary Care Commissioning to develop, with stakeholders, a Primary Care Service Framework (PCSF) on Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH). PCSFs are model specifications (without benchmark prices) that provide a source of guidance, advice and support to primary care trusts and other National Health Service organisations to effectively commission and provide services using local contacts.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will consider the merits of inclusion of the therapeutic strategy of pacing as part of the treatment packages offered by specialist chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalopathy services. [300231]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of health professionals, working in conjunction with the wishes of individual patients, to use their clinical judgement to decide on the most appropriate treatment package for those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

Detailed guidelines on the treatment and diagnosis of CFS/ME were published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in August 2007.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [300190]

(2) how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300873]

Phil Hope: The proportion of domestically produced food procured by the Department has gone up from 58.5 per cent. in 2006-07 to 74 per cent. in 2007-08. Figures for 2008-09 are not currently available.

Quadrant Catering provides the staff restaurant and hospitality catering at the Department of Health sites in London and Eurest Services provides the same services to the Department of Work and Pensions, which includes the Quarry House site in Leeds where some Health employees are based. Both Quadrant Catering and Eurest Services are part of Compass Group UK and Ireland, one of the United Kingdom's largest contract caterers.

Specific information about British products used within the Department of Health and Department of Work and Pensions contracts is listed as follows. This information was made publicly available in late 2008 and there will be another report produced towards the end of 2009.

Proportion of domestically produced food used (by value), i.e. indigenously produced, 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

	Percentage
Bakery—e.g. bread loaves and rolls (i.e. origin of ingredients used and not where baked)	100
Dairy	
Whole eggs (i.e. in shells)	100
Fresh milk (e.g. whole, semi-skimmed, skimmed)	100
Cheese	85
Vegetables, salads and fruit	
Ware potatoes—whole, unprepared	95
Processed potatoes—for prepared both whole and cut	95
Roots and onions—e.g. carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and Swedes	95
Brassicas—e.g. brussel sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower	64
Legumes—e.g. beans (broad), beans (runner and dwarf), peas (green for market), peas (green for processing), peas (harvested dry)	50
Protected vegetables—e.g. tomatoes (round, vine, plum and cherry), tomatoes (cold), cucumbers, lettuce, celery, sweet peppers	25
Other vegetables—e.g. asparagus, celery, leeks, lettuce, watercress	51
Orchard fruit—e.g. dessert apples, culinary apples, pears, plums	51
Soft fruit—e.g. strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blackcurrants	41
Meat and poultry	
Poultry meat	100
Beef and veal	85
Mutton and lamb	60
Bacon	0
Pork	85
Fish	40
Overall percentage indigenous food	74
Overall percentage indigenous food by value if available	75

All expenditure by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. The Department does not fund internal Christmas parties for officials, and staff are expected to fund these parties themselves. The Department does not collect information about the Christmas functions hosted or attended by officials in the Department and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301854]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the number of page hits, visits and unique visitors by month to the Department's website from April 2008 to March 2009.

The annual total of page hits for the year was 65,456,247. The annual total of visits for the year was 15,298,880.

A visit commences when a user, having opened their browser, loads a page for the first time. On closing their browser, the visit is ended. Thus a session can include multiple page hits.

The table also shows the number of unique visitors for each month. Unique visitors are visitors loading pages from the site during the specified time scale (in this case a calendar month). A unique visitor is counted once within the time scale, and can make multiple visits during the time scale.

	Unique visitors in month	*Visits in month*	*Page hits*
March 2009	1,033,680	1,532,397	6,383,331
February 2009	924,026	1,361,442	5,642,052
January 2009	1,017,122	1,507,257	6,205,364
December 2008	696,636	1,041,753	4,403,460
November 2008	874,024	1,278,086	5,578,886
October 2008	849,325	1,257,254	5,555,268
September 2008	772,629	1,126,097	4,717,921
August 2008	580,293	859,571	3,647,145
July 2008	806,832	1,226,589	5,122,615
June 2008	964,577	1,389,120	5,883,074
May 2008	914,972	1,316,806	5,842,608
April 2008	959,929	1,402,508	6,474,523

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300637]

Phil Hope: The Department does not directly employ consultants or contractors. Consequently, details of their salaries are not held by the Department as they are a matter for individuals and their employing company.

Management consultancy organisations are commercially contracted by the Department. Contracts are based on satisfactory completion of set tasks defined in the contracted scope of works. Unsatisfactory delivery of these tasks would result in payment being withheld by the Department in line with the terms of each contract.

Contractors are engaged through commercial contracts by individual directorates. While there may be instances where incentives relating to successful outcomes have been used, information breaking down costs paid to individual contractors is not held centrally on the Department's business management system.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301551]

Phil Hope: The Department does not routinely collect this information centrally.

The Department follows the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles when advertising all vacancies externally.

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300828]

Phil Hope: The Department had contracts with Addison Lee over the last three years and with GDCA Green Cars during 2008-09.

The expenditure against each contract is as follows:

£

	Addison Lee	*GDCA Green Cars*
2006-07	306,310	—
2007-08	336,934	—
2008-09	291,985	22,935

Both contracts were cancelled recently in order to reduce the Department's carbon footprint and save money.

Diabetes

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of *(a)* psychological support and *(b)* education for people suffering from (i) Type 1 and (ii) Type 2 diabetes; and what steps he plans to take to improve such support. [300860]

Ann Keen: We have not made any recent assessments into the adequacy of either psychological support or education for people suffering from (i) Type 1 and (ii) Type 2 diabetes. It is for primary care trusts to commission comprehensive diabetes services that meet the needs of their local population.

We recognise the important role emotional and psychological support has in enabling people with diabetes to self-manage their condition on a day-to-day basis. The Department is working with National Health Service Diabetes and Diabetes UK to identify what needs to be done to enable the national health service and local care services to meet the psychological and emotional needs of all people with diabetes.

Since the publication of the Department of Health and Diabetes UK joint report: 'Structured Patient Education in Diabetes' in June 2005, a copy of which has been placed in the Library, we have been working with NHS Diabetes to find ways to increase the spread of patient education programmes.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential drug rehabilitation places there are in England; and what proportion of such places was in use on the most recent date for which figures are available. [301745]

Gillian Merron: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse maintains a voluntary national online directory of organisations that provide residential drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation services. There are currently over 120 residential services listed with 2,565 beds in England. Most of the beds are available for drug or alcohol rehabilitation and therefore cannot be disaggregated. Some services have chosen not to appear in the directory so the total number of places will be greater than this.

Data on bed vacancies are collected as part of the related, and optional, BEDVACS service. The latest occupancy figure for the 116 services currently using BEDVACS was 83.5 per cent. on 17 November 2009.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost of an opiate substitute prescription for a problem drug user; [301900]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the average number of months during which a problem drug user takes a prescribed opiate substitute. [301901]

Gillian Merron: Drug treatment in England consists of various types of treatment, depending on the circumstances of the service user, including opiate substitute prescribing. A service user may therefore receive many different treatments over time which makes it difficult to isolate the cost of a single component such as substitute prescribing.

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System operated by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) records the type of treatment interventions each person receives, e.g. 'specialist prescribing' (from a specialist drug service) and 'GP prescribing' (from their general practitioner). It does not record the medication prescribed.

The annual cost of a person in a prescribing intervention is estimated at between £2,000 and £5,000, depending on the medication prescribed, the intensity of their treatment and ancillary support.

Data on the length of time that an opiate substitute is prescribed are not collected centrally, however research shows that staying in treatment for at least 12 weeks has a lasting positive benefit in reducing the harm associated with dependence.

It is important to note that the duration of drug treatment varies markedly according to individual need and that it is not unusual for drug users to go in and out of treatment several times, often over several years, before becoming drug-free. Additionally, national clinical guidelines do not specify how long a person should be in treatment.

Prescribing an opiate substitute has benefits for both the patient and society. It allows the patient an opportunity to stabilise their drug intake and lifestyle while breaking with the cyclic nature of illicit drug use and dependency, allowing them to take responsibility for their children, earn their own living and to keep a stable home.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Maize

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which studies of links between genetically modified corn and infertility in mice his Department has considered in the last two years; and how many genes were found by those studies to be expressed differently in the mice which were fed genetically modified corn. [301228]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency has sought advice from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) regarding what conclusions may be drawn from the following publication:

"Velimirov et al., (2008), Forschungsberichte der Sektion IV, Band 3/2008", published by the Austrian Ministry of Health.

This is a summary report that presents the results of investigations into the fertility of mice fed diets containing a type of genetically modified (GM) maize (NK603 x MON810) and two types of non-GM maize. This research project also included a number of studies on third generation mice fed on these diets, including an innovative microarray analysis of ribonucleic acid levels that found large number of differences between the GM and non-GM groups. Based on this analysis the authors reported that a total of 440 genes were expressed differently in these two groups and a large number of differences were also seen between mice fed on two types of non-GM maize. The authors reported that it was not possible to draw any general conclusion from these findings.

The ACNFP considered this report at its meeting in November 2008 and advised that it was not possible to draw any conclusions about cause and effect or to assess the significance of this report for human health. The minutes of this meeting are available on the ACNFP website at:

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet08/acnfpmeet20nov08/acnfpmin20nov08

Health: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Child Health Interim Application is still supported by manual systems; whether it can issue COVER reports; what recent progress has been made in the development and implementation of the Application; and if he will make a statement; [301361]

(2) which primary care trusts in London use the Child Health Interim Application; and what estimate he has made of the number of children resident in areas served by such trusts. [301362]

Ann Keen: The child health interim application (CHIA) was introduced in response to a decision in early 2005 to withdraw support for the ageing Regional Interactive Child Health System (RICHS) from 10 primary care trusts (PCTs) in London taken by its commercial supplier. CHIA was delivered to these PCTs at short notice by BT, the London local service provider under the national programme for information technology, as an interim measure at the request of the local national health service. This is now being taken forward by the local NHS and so the hon. Member may wish to contact the Chief Executive of NHS London.

Health: Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of GP practices use Directed Enhanced Service for annual health checks for people with learning disabilities. [301372]

Phil Hope: This information is not available centrally. We are however monitoring primary care trusts' spend on this directed enhanced service and have commissioned an independent survey of activity, by general practitioner practices, on this directed enhanced service. Both data sources suggest that since this directed enhanced service was introduced the number of health checks given to patients with learning disabilities has increased significantly, with overall expenditure expected to almost double from £6 million in 2008-09 to over £11 million in 2009-10.

Learning Disability: Administration of Justice

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the new regulatory arrangements for improving access to justice for people with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [301411]

Phil Hope: We are not aware of having received any representations on the new regulatory arrangements for improving access to justice for people with a learning disability.

However, we do seek views from the Working for Justice Group when we are developing policy on the implementation of Valuing People Now and delivering training to the criminal justice system.

Liver Diseases: Transplant Surgery

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to develop a new liver allocation scheme. [301356]

Ann Keen: A proposal document has been accepted by the Liver Selection and Allocation Working Party—part of NHS Blood and Transplant's (NHSBT) Liver Advisory Group—with four key stages: agreeing the aims of transplantation (maximising survival from the point of registration onto a transplant list); developing statistical models which can predict as accurately as possible a patient's survival without a liver transplant; developing models to predict survival after liver transplantation; and comparing four possible models of allocation.

The process is being overseen by the Liver Selection and Allocation Working Party, reviewed by the Liver Advisory Group at NHSBT who will make final recommendations to the NHS BT Board for their ratification. The modelling is expected to finish by March 2010. A 12 month simulation will then follow, with the aim of having a final model for implementation by April 2011.

Lung Cancer

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the finding of the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2007 that only 51 per cent. of lung cancer patients receive any form of active treatment; and if he will make a statement. [301629]

Ann Keen: The quality of the submitted data has improved compared with previous years and, overall, measures of process and outcome of care appear to be improving. The National Cancer Director has encouraged all networks and trusts to review their own data and to take action, especially if they fall below the helpful benchmarks set out at the end of the report. The NHS Information Centre has offered trusts a local action planning toolkit to help them do this effectively.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to assist the Lung Cancer Awareness Month initiative. [301631]

Ann Keen: We are committed to raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, and this is a key focus of the "Cancer Reform Strategy", published in December 2007. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

We know that awareness weeks and months for specific cancer types can be an effective way of raising awareness of cancer. As part of this year's Lung Cancer Awareness Month, we have provided funding of £15,000 for lung cancer awareness leaflets to be sent to all pharmacies in England for public distribution. This is the second year that we have provided funding for these leaflets.

A stakeholder group has been formed to address lung cancer awareness at a strategic level. The Lung Cancer Awareness Action and Advisory Group is working to raise awareness of lung cancer.

Through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, formally launched in November 2008, we are working to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, including lung cancer, amongst the public and health professionals. This work includes: the development of key messages on a number of cancers (key messages for lung cancer are available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/pathways/lungcancer/pages/symptoms.aspx;

carrying out a baseline national cancer symptom awareness survey; commissioning an audit of cancer diagnoses in primary care; and providing funding for a number of cancer awareness campaigns.

As part of the Initiative, almost £5 million has been allocated to the national health service to support cancer networks and primary care trusts in implementing local services that will improve awareness of cancers, including lung cancer, and promote early diagnosis.

The Department is investing in a campaign to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of lung, breast and bowel cancers to encourage people with symptoms to seek help earlier than they do currently. The Improvement Foundation's Healthy Communities Collaborative is working in 20 of the most deprived areas of the country to target those most at risk and is working with local people to develop and test methods of awareness raising.

In addition, the Department and the Football Foundation are jointly funding the Ahead of the Game programme. Ahead of the Game is a one-year pilot programme that uses the appeal of football to raise awareness of lung, bowel and prostate cancers in men aged 55 and over.

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the financial settlement reached between the Manchester Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust and its former chief executive. [301737]

Ann Keen: The information requested in relation to the financial settlement between Manchester Mental Health and Social Care National Health Service Trust and its former chief executive is confidential.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mental health budget was in each of the last 30 years. [300912]

Phil Hope: This information is not available in the format requested. Data are collected by the Department from the programme budgeting data collection from 2003-04 onwards. Prior to this, data was collected through the national health service Health and Community Health Services collection (HCHS). The two data collections are not compatible, and the HCHS data set underestimates total expenditure, so has not been used.

Data on mental health budgets from 2003-04 to 2007-08 only are available from the NHS programme budget data collections for mental health disorders and this is shown in the table.

Department of Health: Programme budget data collection total expenditure on mental health services by the NHS in England 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Expenditure (£000)
2003-04	7,386,096
2004-05	7,905,131
2005-06	8,538,755
2006-07	9,125,740
2007-08	10,291,979

Source: Department of Health.

Mental Health: Unemployed

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the effect of unemployment on a person's mental health. [300409]

Phil Hope: The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of the economic downturn on levels of demand for mental health services. However, we recognise that there are links between poor mental health and difficult economic circumstances.

Thanks to nine consecutive years of increased spending, mental health services in England are now better prepared than ever before to provide help for people who are affected by the economic downturn. Many more staff, more community mental health services and increased access to psychological therapies have transformed services since 1997. Our New Horizons vision, to be published shortly, will build upon these achievements.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Voluntary Organisations

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with voluntary and community organisations concerned with the delivery of care to patients with musculoskeletal conditions. [301107]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with voluntary or community organisations concerned with the delivery of care to patients with musculoskeletal conditions.

On 20 January 2009, Lord Darzi, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, met with a group of stakeholders to discuss the research of the Rheumatology Futures Group. This stakeholder group included representatives of the national rheumatoid arthritis society (NRAS) and the British Society for Rheumatology.

On 25 November 2009, a meeting took place between Jenny Snell of NRAS and my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Health, and a further meeting is scheduled for 1 December.

NHS: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of NHS staff earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300815]

Ann Keen: Of the 940,674 full-time equivalent hospital and community health services staff surveyed in the Information Centre for health and social care's April to June 2009 NHS Staff Earnings Estimates, 93,614 or 10 per cent. are estimated to have national health service earnings of more than £50,000 a year.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in salary and wage costs for NHS employees in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the proportion paid to such employees who earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300844]

Ann Keen: According to the national health service financial returns and foundation trust annual reports the paybill for staff in the hospital and community health services was £39.2 billion in 2008-09. Information on the proportion of this figure paid to staff who earn more than £50,000 per annum is not available.

The annual salaries (excluding employers' tax and national insurance contributions) of the hospital and community health services staff surveyed in the Information Centre for health and social care's April to June 2009 NHS Staff Earnings Estimates are estimated to total £30.8 billion, of which around 25 per cent. was paid to staff who earned more than £50,000 a year.

Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times foreign objects requiring surgical removal have been left inside patients following an operation in each of the past 10 years. [301348]

Ann Keen: A total of 60 patient safety incidents involving foreign objects left inside patients and requiring surgical removal have been reported to the National Patient Safety Agency since 2005. There was no central reporting system in place prior to 2003 and no such patient safety incidents were reported in 2003 and 2004. The detailed breakdown is in the following table:

	Incidents—surgical removal of foreign objects
2005	9
2006	27
2007	19
2008	5

Source:
National Patient Safety Agency

Swine Flu: Babies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what protection from swine influenza is available for babies under the age of six months; and if he will make a statement. [301899]

Gillian Merron: Our advice to everyone is to continue to protect themselves and their babies by observing good respiratory and hand hygiene (use a tissue when they cough and sneeze and then throw it away and the frequent use of soap and water or sanitizer). People should contact their general practitioner (GP) if they have a child under one year old who has flu-like symptoms.

A GP will assess children under one year and give advice on the use of the antiviral medication, any other relevant medication and on symptom management. People should keep a close eye on their child's symptoms and if their child suddenly gets much worse or does not improve, they should contact their GP again.

The appropriate antiviral medication for children under one is oral oseltamivir solution, which is made up in national health service hospital pharmacies. We have enough of the powder for 50 per cent. of under ones. This is a sufficient amount based on current advice about the numbers who may be ill during the pandemic.

Advice on the use of antiviral medicines for children under the age of one year has been placed in the Library ("Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations on the use of antiviral medicines for pregnant women, women who are breastfeeding and children under the age of one year") and advice on breastfeeding and swine flu, including ways of reducing the risk of passing flu from mother to baby is given on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Children/Maternity/Maternalandinfantnutrition/DH_099965

Neither of the swine flu vaccines used in the United Kingdom vaccination programme is licensed by the European regulators for use in children under six months old.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplants were done in private clinical practice in the UK involving solid organs donated after death outside the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [301367]

Ann Keen: No transplant operations were carried out in private clinical practice in the United Kingdom involving solid organs donated after death outside of the National Health Service. All organs donated from deceased donors are allocated to patients through the NHS.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated *(a)* operating reserves and *(b)* proved recoverable reserves are of coal in each coalfield in the UK. [301750]

Mr. Kidney: The following table summarises the estimated operating reserves and proved recoverable reserves of coal by former British Coal regions as at August 2009. Figures by coalfield are commercially sensitive and for that reason cannot be provided.

Million tonnes

		England				
	Central North	*Central West*	*Northern*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Total*
Operating reserves[1,2]	95	19	26	50	197	387
Proved recoverable reserves[3]	1,389	568	578	75	157	2,767

[1] Includes mines currently in the planning process.

[2] Does not include closed mines that are still in licence.

[3] Includes sites that are well developed, fully and partly proved and those with potential prospects.

Source:
The Coal Authority

Departmental Buildings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301158]

Joan Ruddock: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee 'Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall', the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready, and will be made available on the Cabinet Office website in early 2010.

Energy: Conservation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been allocated to the additional energy efficiency obligation in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and (i) what proportion of funding will be for England, (ii) what carbon dioxide emissions reduction is expected to be achieved, (iii) how many properties will be affected and (iv) how many jobs will be created in each of those years. [301089]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 23 November, *Official Report*, column 36W.

Liquefied Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent representations he has received on the safety of liquefied natural gas shipping in UK waters; [301428]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the matter of risk assessment in respect of liquefied natural gas operations. [301429]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

In the last three years the Department for Transport has received representations about the safety of liquefied natural gas shipping in UK waters from four correspondents. At least one of these was a spokesman for the local campaign group 'Safe Haven'. We have also received an e-petition with 251 signatures and a copy of the report produced by Dr. R. A. Cox about the approach and use of risk assessments by the port authority.

The Department does not hold any risk assessments or studies produced by the port authority, other than those which are already in the public domain.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the role is of the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive, *(b)* Marine and Coastguard Agency and *(c)* Environment Agency in respect of liquefied natural gas terminal operations in the UK. [301430]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency (EA) together form the 'Competent Authority' under the COMAH regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999). They assess the pre-construction and pre-operation safety reports from companies wishing to establish liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. HSE also undertake regular inspections of the site during its construction, and carry out further inspections at the site throughout its operational life to ensure the operator continues to run the site safely.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is responsible for the regulation of safety of vessels at sea, including LNG tankers for compliance with internationally agreed safety, security and environmental standards.

The MCA surveys vessels registered in the UK and inspects foreign-flagged vessels visiting UK ports. They also check whether crew members have adequate living and working conditions.

Renewable Energy

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales to have purchased (i) micro wind, (ii) small scale hydro, (iii) solar thermal, (iv) ground source heat pump, (v) air source heat pump, (vi) biomass, (vii) solar photovoltaic and (viii) electric vehicles technologies in each of the last 10 years. [300479]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The Department does not hold the number of all household installations which have taken place in the last 10 years. Under the Government's grant programmes since 2001 we are able to provide the number of technologies which have received support:

(a) Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase one

Technology	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Micro Wind	539	51	69
Small Scale Hydro	4	—	1
Solar Thermal	5,264	7	455
Ground Source Heat Pump	482	1	61
Air Source Heat Pump	141	—	12
Biomass Room Heater	7	—	3
Solar PV	1,892	24	70
Wood Fuelled Boiler	326	5	66

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase two

Technology	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Micro Wind	193	28	27
Small Scale Hydro	0	0	0
Solar Thermal	527	35	64
Ground Source Heat Pump	309	13	10
Air Source Heat Pump	19	0	0
Biomass	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Solar PV	1,432	63	80
Wood Fuelled Boiler	37	4	4

[1] See boiler figure

(b) Major Demonstration Programme (PV only)

Technology	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Solar PV	1,008	43	73

(c) Clear Skies (2003-05)

Technology	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Micro Wind	206	—	—
Small Scale Hydro	15	—	—
Solar Technologies	5,799	—	—
Ground Source Heat Pump	473	—	—
Wood Fuelled Boiler	90	—	—
Pellet Stoves	50	—	—

The Scottish Community and Household Renewables Initiative has supported the following number of installations since 2003:

Technology	*Number of installations in Scotland*
Micro Wind	202
Small Scale Hydro	10
Solar Thermal	1,549
Ground Source Heat Pump	1,026
Air Source Heat Pump	197
Biomass	254
Solar PV	13

The Department does not hold information on the number of households that purchase electric vehicles.

Warm Front Scheme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department plans to spend on the Warm Front Programme in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and what estimate he has made of the (i) proportion of such expenditure to be incurred in England, (ii) the carbon savings to be achieved, (iii) the number of properties affected and (iv) the number of jobs created from such expenditure in each year. [300475]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* The allocated budget for this spending round has been set at £959 million (2008-11).The actual spend for Year 1 (2008-09) was £395 million, while the planned spend for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 is £369 million and £195 million respectively. Budgets for future years will be considered as part of the next spending round.

Warm Front does not operate in the devolved Administrations and thus all scheme expenditure will be incurred in England.

The Carbon Reductions reported for the scheme are based on figures calculated by the external energy analysis company, the Energy Audit Company, using property data collected by the Scheme Manager. Calculations for total carbon savings achieved under Warm Front are calculated annually at the end of each year, as such, the process does not yield projected estimates for incomplete or future years. The last period for which figures are available is 2008-09 (the last complete scheme year) when the scheme reported an average reduction on 1.233 tonnes per household assisted. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 677W, for further information on carbon savings under Warm Front.

The scheme aims to assist over 205,000 households this year, with a current estimate of 90,000 in 2010-11. This reduction in numbers is a result of £50 million of scheme funding being brought forward from the 2010-11 budget in order to assist vulnerable households sooner. It is not possible to make estimates for future years as budgets have not been set.

Given the length of the scheme's supply chain, it is difficult to estimate the number of jobs that Warm Front creates. At the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government announced that £3 billion of capital investment would be brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to support a number of different industries and sectors through the economic downturn. This included a green stimulus of £535 million, which included £100 million, in new funding for Warm Front and £50 million brought forward from 2010-11. The Prime Minister announced that total public sector capital investment was expected to create or support 100,000 jobs across the country this year.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area (A) were offered a Warm Front grant, (B) were required to pay a top-up to a Warm Front grant and (C) declined a Warm Front grant in each of (1) the last 12 months and (2) the last five years. [300733]

Mr. Kidney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1365W. The numbers of applicants *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years of age in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area who (A) were offered a Warm Front grant and (B) required to make a contribution to the cost of works since 2005 were placed in the House Library in April 2009. At this time, Eaga did not record the number of applicants who did not proceed (c).

However, Eaga has now undertaken work to consolidate the number of applicants who did not proceed according to (i) region and (ii) local authority area for the last five years. These figures have been placed in the House Library in a spreadsheet that also includes the number of those aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area were (A) offered a Warm Front grant and (B) required to make a contribution to the cost of Warm Front work in (a) the last five years and (b) in the last 12 months.

However, the numbers of those not proceeding in the last 12 months cannot be consolidated until the end of 2009-10 Scheme Year. I will ensure that these figures are placed in the House Library as soon as they are available.

Warm Front Scheme: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average grant awarded under the Warm Front scheme was in Tamworth constituency in each of the last three years. [301613]

Mr. Kidney: The table details the average amount spent in homes receiving assistance from the Warm Front Scheme in the Tamworth constituency in each of the last three years.

Tamworth	£
2007-08	1,035.24
2008-09	1,583.50
2009-10 (to 31 October 2009)	2,517.91

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 30 November 2009

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission for how many days a month the non-executive directors of the National Audit Office are expected to work in return for their annual remuneration. [301674]

Mr. Alan Williams: The time commitment for the non-executive members of the NAO Board is approximately two days per month. The remuneration for the position is £20,000 per annum; the position is non-pensionable. The time commitment for the chairman of the NAO is one day a week. The remuneration is £50,000 per annum; this position is also non-pensionable.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the total value is of Olympic contracts awarded to *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* other firms to date. [302008]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: I have referred this question to the Olympic Delivery Authority. I will write to the hon. Member when I have received a reply, and I will place a copy of my reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how many Olympic *(a)* contracts and *(b)* construction contracts have been awarded to firms based in (a) Wales, (b) Scotland, (c) Northern Ireland, (d) England and (e) other countries; [302561]

(2) what the monetary value is of Olympic *(a)* construction contracts and *(b)* other contracts that have been awarded to firms based in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Northern Ireland, (iv) England and (v) other countries. [302562]

Tessa Jowell: I have referred these questions to the Olympic Delivery Authority. I will write to the hon. Member when I have received a reply, and I will place a copy of my reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

Olympic Games 2012: River Thames

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate has been made of the *(a)* compensation and *(b)* other costs associated with the closure of the River Thames for the duration of the rowing events at the London 2012 Olympics. [302045]

Tessa Jowell: No decision has been made to close any section of the River Thames for the duration of the rowing events, which are being hosted at Dorney Lake, Windsor, for either the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for staging the event and is keen to keep the river open. Together with the Olympic Delivery Authority, LOCOG is currently undertaking feasibility work around the venue to determine the requirements. It will then consult with all interested parties on the detail of the plans before submitting relevant applications through the planning process in 2010.

As a company limited by guarantee, LOCOG's costs related to the venue will be met by its budget, which is almost entirely privately-financed through sources such as sponsorship, ticketing, merchandise and broadcast rights.

PRIME MINISTER

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen; and how many officials from No. 10 Downing Street plan to attend. [302362]

The Prime Minister: Yes. Information on all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 is published on an annual basis. Information for 2009-10 will be published in the normal way.

Community Hero Receptions

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister which hon. Members have been invited to attend Community Hero receptions in 10 Downing Street. [302833]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Members: Surveillance

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if it is his policy that the terms of the Wilson Doctrine in respect of the *(a)* telephone tapping, *(b)* other interception of communications and *(c)* electronic surveillance of hon. Members should remain in force; and in how many instances since 1975 such interceptions have not yet been reported to the House. [302776]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood (Mr. Hurd) on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1028W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301486]

Paul Goggins: Since 6 June 2006 there have been no allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing made by Northern Ireland Office staff.

Departmental Equal Pay

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what mechanisms there are to ensure his Department complies with equal pay legislation. [302651]

Paul Goggins: The Cabinet Office requires Whitehall Departments to carry out equal pay reviews. In consultation with trade unions, the Northern Ireland Office carried out an equal pay review which concluded in March 2009.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301856]

Mr. Woodward: The number of *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors to my Department's website received in 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

	Page hits		*Unique visitors*	
	2008	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*
January	371,709	354,697	24,507	22,677
February	321,421	337,061	22,927	23,572
March	356,368	384,081	29,149	30,691
April	428,066	301,818	28,829	24,945
May	449,473	370,406	28,350	23,315
June	501,941	257,233	28,297	19,703
July	463,098	722,552	20,631	18,890
August	363,870	298,577	18,450	17,942
September	441,252	390,871	22,370	19,746
October	559,138	364,315	27,814	22,925
November	[1]	[1]	[1]	n/a
December	401,436	n/a	20,491	n/a

[1] Figures for the Northern Ireland Office website are not obtainable for November 2008 due to a changeover from our web statistic provider.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301160]

Mr. Woodward: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall, the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online-only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301536]

Paul Goggins: In the last 12 months there have been no jobs advertised by Northern Ireland Office that were online-only applications. Applications for positions can be submitted online or as a hard copy.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301130]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number and proportion of staff in the Northern Ireland Office, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies who work flexibly or part time at 24 November 2009.

	Total staff	*Number of part-time staff*	*Percentage*
Northern Ireland Office Core	1,329	171	12.9
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	210	29	13.8
Compensation Agency	70	6	8.5
Youth Justice Agency	77	12	15.6
Northern Ireland Prison Service	2,387	234	9.8
Non-departmental Public Bodies	95	14	14.7

Within the Northern Ireland Office, staff are expected to work conditioned hours; however there is a considerable amount of flexibility in the way staff are permitted to work. Flexible working time (that is, a flexible start and finish each day) is available to the majority of staff where operational/business needs permit.

In line with the Employment (NI) Order 2002, the Northern Ireland Office has processes in place to allow staff to request flexible working hours to enable them to balance their family and employment responsibilities.

Weapons: Decommissioning

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* loyalist groups and *(b)* the Irish Government on decommissioning of arms; and if he will make a statement. [302652]

Mr. Woodward: The Minister of State and I meet regularly with the Irish Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Irish Justice Minister to discuss a range of issues, including decommissioning.

The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning reported to both Governments in September that they believe the Ulster Volunteer Force and Red Hand Commando had completed the decommissioning process. The IICD also reported that they had overseen an act of decommissioning by the Ulster Defence Association and been given a commitment that the UDA will complete the decommissioning of their arms before the expiry of the Commission's final mandate.

The decommissioning amnesty will come to an end in February 2010 and I encourage all those groups that hold illegal weapons to engage with the Commission as these arms have no place in normal society.

TREASURY

Angad Paul

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [302867]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks: Loans

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the provision of *(a)* mortgages and *(b)* other loans by UK banks to existing borrowers who have not defaulted on their mortgages; and if he will make a statement. [301712]

S[illegible]McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to his earlier question of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 777W, on this matter.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to make the appointment of directors of banks the responsibility of bank employees, borrowers or depositors. [301783]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1808W.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the average time taken to transfer payments from child care vouchers to child care providers in the latest period for which figures are available. [302382]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. HM Revenue and Customs does not administer child care voucher schemes. Generally child care voucher provider companies are contracted by employers to do the administration on their behalf.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302023]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no specific scientific adviser posts or posts that require in-depth scientific knowledge in HM Treasury.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place for the valuation of non-market impacts; and if he will make it his policy to collect data on happiness levels in respect of each income decile. [302031]

Mr. Timms: The Green Book is HM Treasury's guidance on appraisal and evaluation in central Government, including the valuation of non-market impacts. Annex 2 outlines techniques for valuing non-market impacts, and some typical applications.

The Government publish information on life satisfaction, broken down by socio-economic class, as part of the sustainable development indicators published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, available at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/documents/SDIYP2009_a9.pdf

The British Social Attitudes survey also occasionally asks questions on self-reported happiness, broken down by income band, most recently in 2008; it is available at

http://www.britsocat.com/Body.aspx?control=HomePage

Dunfermline Building Society: Finance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid from the public purse to *(a)* consultants, *(b)* accountants, *(c)* legal advisers and *(d)* other financial advisers for work connected with management of the assets of Dunfermline Building Society. [302929]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No advisory fees have been paid from the public purse in connection with the management of the assets of Dunfermline Building Society. The assets of the society are being managed by the administrator, KPMG, whose fees are paid from the receipts generated through administration of the assets.

Financial Services: Education

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which bodies the Government have asked to perform functions on behalf of the consumer financial education body to be established by the Financial Services Bill. [301714]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Provisions in the Financial Services Bill allow the consumer financial education body (CFEB) to ask other bodies to support it in fulfilling its function. This will allow CFEB to partner with organisations to deliver the money guidance service and other financial capability programmes. The Government have not asked any bodies to perform functions on behalf of CFEB.

This will be a matter for the FSA in its planning to set up CFEB, for CFEB on its establishment and for negotiation with the bodies concerned.

Pensioners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the hon. Member for Stroud's correspondence with the Director of HMRC National Insurance Contributions Office ref DCT/158006, when he expects resolution of the matter to enable the hon. Member's constituent Mrs. Campbell to receive her pension; and if he will make a statement. [301759]

Mr. Timms: The National Insurance Contributions Office resolved the disagreement over the national insurance record of my hon. Friend's constituent on 23 November 2009. On the same day the Pension Service was notified, and are now in position to determine the amount of state retirement pension due.

Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much central Government expenditure which cannot be attributed to geographical parts of the country there has been in each year since 1997; how such expenditure is calculated; and what proportion of all central Government expenditure such expenditure constituted in each such year. [301030]

Mr. Byrne: The Country and Regional Analysis (CRA) is an annual statistical exercise that is undertaken to allocate expenditure by country and region. For the purposes of the CRA, all departmental expenditure on services is classified as 'identifiable' (benefiting individual regions) or 'non-identifiable' (benefiting the UK as a whole). Spending that is classified as 'non-identifiable' is not allocated to specific regions.

The latest figures for non-identifiable expenditure can be found in chapter 9, table 9.1, of the PESA 2009 publication:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa09.htm

This table also shows non-identifiable expenditure as a proportion of Total Managed Expenditure (TME). For your convenience, this information is provided below. PESA 2009 gives information for all years back to 2003-04. We cannot provide data further back than 2003-04 on a comparable basis.

£ million

	National Statistics					
	2003-04 Outturn	*2004-05 Outturn*	*2005-06 Outturn*	*2006-07 Outturn*	*2007-08 Outturn*	*2008-09 Plans*
Identifiable expenditure	380,233	407,998	434,363	454,043	481,866	519,139
Non-identifiable expenditure	59,182	62,641	66,960	68,960	73,346	80,936
Total expenditure on services	439,416	470,639	501,046	523,003	555,211	600,075
Accounting adjustments	16,193	22,119	23,563	26,936	28,854	23,046
Total managed expenditure	455,609	492,758	524,609	549,939	584,065	623,121
As a percentage of total managed expenditure						
Identifiable expenditure	83	83	83	83	83	83
Non-identifiable expenditure	13	13	13	13	13	13
Total expenditure on services	96	96	96	95	95	96
Accounting adjustments	4	4	4	5	5	4
Total managed expenditure	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source
Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

Tax Yields: Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross gaming yield from remote gambling has been in each month since the Gambling Act 2005 came into force. [301768]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport gave him on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1326W.

HMRC are not currently able to publish detailed figures for the revenue collected from Remote Gaming Duty while maintaining taxpayers' confidentiality.

Taxation: Scotland

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Scottish Executive Parliament has powers to vary rates of *(a)* air passenger duty and *(b)* other taxes applicable to aviation. [302105]

Mr. Byrne: No powers exist under which the Scottish Executive could vary air passenger duty or other taxes applicable to aviation.

Ulster Bank: Pay

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was first informed that Ulster Bank was withholding payment of contractual bonus payments to staff in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland until such time as employees signed a new pension contract; what discussions UK Financial Investments Ltd. has had with the Bank's pension trustees on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [302483]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

The Government's shareholdings in RBS are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability, and to act in a way that promotes competition.

VAT: Derelict Land

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek through discussions at EU level to exempt from value added tax the development of brownfield sites. [301828]

Mr. Timms: VAT is a broad-based tax on consumer expenditure and reliefs from it have always been strictly limited. The application of VAT reliefs is governed by European agreements, signed by successive Governments. These provide that EU Member States may not extend the scope of existing zero rates and exemptions or introduce any new ones.

The current agreements were agreed in March this year, after discussions lasting over six years. There is no realistic prospect of amending them, to allow for exemption on supplies connected with the development of brownfield sites, beyond those reliefs we already have.

Supplies of bare land, such as freehold sales and leases, are normally exempt from VAT. Through Land Remediation Relief (LRR), developers can also claim enhanced tax relief against corporation tax for the costs of clearing up contaminated and derelict brownfield sites. Further information on LRR is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/briefs/company-tax/brief2909.pdf

When constructing a new building, VAT normally has to be charged at the standard rate. However, a zero rate of VAT already applies to the construction of new eligible dwellings and buildings that will be used solely for a relevant residential or charitable purpose, whether on brownfield or greenfield sites.

Further information is provided on HMRC's website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&id=HMCE_CL_000513&propertyType=document

VAT: Tourism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect on *(a)* the UK economy and *(b)* the UK tourist industry of reducing value added tax for businesses in the tourist industry to 7 per cent. [302121]

Mr. Timms: VAT is a broad-based tax on consumer expenditure and reliefs from it have always been strictly limited. EU VAT agreements signed by successive Governments do permit Member States to introduce a number of reduced rates of not less than 5 per cent. on a prescribed list of goods and services. This list does not allow the application of a blanket reduced rate to all tourism-related activities.

The Government keep all taxes under review. Where reduced rates are available, these have only been applied where they provide the most cost-effective and well-targeted support for the Government's policy objectives compared to other measures.

Central Government have allocated over £130 million between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to VisitBritain and VisitEngland. However, that is only one aspect of public funding support for UK tourism. The contributions from the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly, the Regional Development Agencies, and local authorities also need to be taken into account.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Reorganisation

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the proposed restructuring of Arts Council England to be completed; what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the restructuring; and if he will make a statement. [302465]

Margaret Hodge: The proposed restructure of Arts Council England will come into effect at the end of the financial year, so that the new organisation will be in place from the 1 April 2010. The cost of the Organisation Review, which includes recruitment, redundancies and implementing the new work methods, is £4,833,000. However, as a result of these changes we expect to see savings of £6.5million annually from 2010-11 onwards.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement.[1] [300197]

Mr. Simon: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

The Prime Minister announced on 12 October 2009 that the Government intend to sell the Tote (the Horserace Totalisator Board), which is currently the fifth largest bookmaker in the UK. The sale process is intended to start in summer 2010 and be completed by no later than March 2011.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the energy *(a)* rating and *(b)* band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each of the last three years. [302940]

Mr. Simon: The buildings occupied by the Department and the Royal Parks Agency that qualify for Display Energy Certificates are listed in the table.

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[1] *[Official Report, 2 December 2009, Vol. 501, c. 17MC.]*

	2007	2008	2009
DCMS			
2-4 Cockspur Street, London	Not available	Energy rating 187, Band G	Re-certification in progress
Queen's Yard, London	Not available	Energy rating 88, Band D	Re-certification in progress
Royal Parks			
The Old Police House, Hyde Park, London	Not available	Not available	Energy rating 119, Band E
The Sports Pavilion, Regents Park, London	Not available	Not available	Energy rating 55, Band C

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301848]

Mr. Simon: Between 1 January and 31 December 2008 the DCMS website received:

(a) Total page views 19,879,767

(b) Unique visitors 996,572

Between 1 January and 31 October 2009 the DCMS website received:

(a) Total page views 18,110,776

(b) Unique visitors 946,943

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302413]

Mr. Simon: The departmental website is managed in house from existing resources. The additional costs of development, hosting, licences and editorial for 2008-9 were £62,488 running costs and £88,174 capital. The forecast for 2009-10 is running costs of £89,868 and £115,000 capital. These costs cover the main site, the Government Art Collection site and a number of in-house mini-sites.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; what proportion of the total workforce they represented in each year; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [301012]

Mr. Simon: The Department makes non-consolidated performance payments to its employees for two purposes: (a) in-year non-consolidated performance payments to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and (b) year-end non-consolidated performance payments to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. These figures are exclusive of two key senior staff in the Government Olympic Executive, who were appointed on fixed-term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects extensive relevant experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of their remuneration were published in the departmental annual reports and accounts 2009. The data are set out in the following tables.

	2007-08	2008-09
Number of staff awarded in year non-consolidated performance payments	144	178
Proportion of work force (Percentage)	28	38
Total cost of payments (£)	69,109	73,700
Largest single non-consolidated payment (£)	2,000	2,500

	2007-08	2008-09
Number of staff awarded year end non-consolidated performance payments	235	219
Proportion of work force (Percentage)	46	46
Total cost of payments (£)	451,604	443,467
Largest single non-consolidated payment (£)	13,000	15,000

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for a senior civil servant in his Department in each of the last five years. [301600]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 24 November 2009]*: The information requested is set out in the following table. They are exclusive of two key senior staff in the Government Olympic Executive, who were appointed on fixed-term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects extensive relevant experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of their remuneration were published in the departmental annual reports and accounts 2009.

£

Financial year	*Average non-consolidated performance related payments*	*Highest non-consolidated performance related payments*
2008-09	8,210	15,000
2007-08	6,738	13,000
2006-07	5,356	10,000
2005-06	3,576	6,000
2004-05	3,466	7,000

Elgin Marbles

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Board of Trustees of the British Museum about the future management of its Parthenon marble exhibits. [302468]

Margaret Hodge: Neither my right hon. Friend, nor I have had any recent discussions with the Board of Trustees. However, he has met the Director of the British Museum and discussed the Museum's capital programme. He has also been briefed by the Director on the issue of the Parthenon Sculptures, whose management, as part of the entire collection, is a matter for the Museum and not for Government.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with his Greek counterpart on exchange of museum artefacts since the building of the new Acropolis museum. [302469]

Margaret Hodge: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I have had such discussions.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302741]

Mr. Simon: Vehicles used by the Department's Ministers and previous permanent secretaries are provided by the Government Car Service managed by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA). If any clamping charges were payable, they would have been included in archived GCDA invoices to the Department. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

London 2012 Olympics

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions have taken place with the International Olympic Committee on a potential no-fly zone over *(a)* the Olympic Village and *(b)* the surrounding areas during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [302257]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

No such discussions have taken place with the International Olympic Committee. Her Majesty's Government are working with the Civil Aviation Authority, NATS (the en-route air navigation services provider), security agencies and other stakeholders to look at all aspects of airspace management for the 2012 games. This work is being developed and no firm decisions have yet been made.

Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of National Lottery grant funding has been provided to the London 2012 Olympics in each year since 2005. [301710]

Mr. Simon: The funding provided to Olympic good causes and non-Olympic good causes, respectively, was as follows:

£000

	Olympics	*Non-Olympic good causes*
2005-06	16,525	1,491,715
2006-07	115,759	1,290,283
2007-08	151,229	1,302,247
2008-09[1]	211,063	1,238,785

[1] Provisional outturn, net of Olympic transfers totalling £73 million between the National Lottery Distribution Fund and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much additional revenue the new National Lottery Millionaire Raffle is expected to generate; and what percentage of that revenue will be provided to fund the London 2012 Olympics. [301711]

Mr. Simon: The National Lottery Commission holds forecasts for sales performance of new or enhanced National Lottery games, but is unable to release this publicly as the information is commercially sensitive. However, actual sales figures broken down by individual games are available via the following page on the website of Camelot, the National Lottery operator:

http://www.camelotgroup.co.uk/aboutcamelot/
ourstrategy.html

The EuroMillions game, including the new Millionaire Raffle aspect of the game, is not a designated Olympic Lottery game and all proceeds will go to the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF).

The NLDF is providing a total of £1,085 million to the Olympic Lottery Distributor in 15 transfers between 2009 and 2012. It is not possible to attribute the source of these transfers to individual Lottery games.

Sport

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 248-49W, on sports, how many people of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnic group participated in each funded sport according to Active People Survey 3 results. [301777]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Active People Survey 3 data you have requested will be published in December this year.

Sport: Females

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of the total workforce of each sport governing body in receipt of public funds are women. [301766]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally by my Department or our NDPBs. As there are 46 sport governing bodies that are currently in receipt of public funding, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Television

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if his Department will commission research on the possible effects on levels of community engagement of time spent watching television. [302035]

Mr. Simon: My Department has no plans to commission such research.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the time spent by *(a)* children and *(b)* adults on watching television in each of the last 10 years. [302038]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Broadcasters Audience Research Board (BARB) is the organisation responsible for providing the official measurement of UK television audiences. This information is not held centrally by DCMS, but Ofcom has provided the following information:

Average minutes of viewing per day

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1] [2]
Children (4-15 years old)	142.8	147.7	143.7	135.1	132.3	133.8	138.6	133.0
Adults (15+)	228.0	238.6	237.2	235.2	231.7	233.3	240.2	236.2

[1] Up to 24 November (Q1-Q3).
[2] Data for indicative purposes only and is not comparable with other years.
Source:
BARB, Network, Total TV, Whole Day.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of homes without a *(a)* television and *(b)* television licence. [303067]

Mr. Simon: The proportion of UK households that own a television set is 97.06 per cent. (as of June 2009).

The television licence evasion rate, as reported in the BBC's 2008-09 annual review, is 5.3 per cent.

Tourism: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by overseas tourists visiting *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* the Tamworth Borough Council area in the latest period for which figures are available. [301650]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain have advised the following:

(a) There were 1,760,000 overseas visits to the West Midlands in 2008 and average expenditure per head totalled £349 per visit.

(b) Overseas visits to Birmingham in 2008 totalled 763,000 and average expenditure per head totalled £337 per visit.

(c) Over the period 2005-08, there have been approximately 12,000 overseas visits to Tamworth in each year (due to small sample sizes it is essential to look at a longer period of time for more reliable estimates).

Estimates for spend in Tamworth are not reliable and so are not given.

Video Games

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* video games and *(b)* films have been refused classification by the British Board of Film Classification in each of the last five years. [303027]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Video games and other interactive	*Films (including videos)*
2009	0	2
2008	0	2
2007	4	1
2006	0	1
2005	0	7

Source:
BBFC.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many external consultants work for his Department. [303242]

Ann McKechin: There are no external consultants working for the Scotland Office.

Departmental Crime

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials working in his Department have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years. [303114]

Ann McKechin: No officials in the Scotland Office have been reprimanded, had their contract of employment terminated or have been prosecuted for theft of departmental property.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300174]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not procure *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online-only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301535]

Ann McKechin: No jobs in the Scotland Office were advertised online only.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Advocate-General's Office work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301341]

Ann McKechin: All permanent staff in the Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. Any member of staff can request a change to their working pattern and line managers consider requests in line with the policy and guidance of the parent Department.

Staff below the senior civil service (91 per cent.) can work to a flexi-time agreement and local records are kept of hours worked; 5 per cent. of all staff work part-time, 2 per cent. work compressed hours and 2 per cent. of staff work in a job share partnership. Details of the breakdown of staff by category are not provided as identification of individuals may be possible in view of the numbers involved.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many on-farm visits were made in relation to rural development programme schemes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [300293]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Both Natural England (NE) and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) make on-farm visits in relation to rural development programme schemes.

NE make agri-environment (AE) agreement visits. These visits by land management experts are to assess the environmental features of the site, to work with the farmer to design and agree the management options that will deliver the most benefit, or to monitor the benefits and suggest improvements (these are distinct from the formal inspections carried out by RPA). NE makes about 26,000 visits to 18,000 farms each year. NE has over 58,000 AE agreements, so this is about one visit every two years, but the visits are focused on areas with the most environmental impact, typically higher level stewardship and environmentally sensitive areas.

The RPA undertakes on-farm compliance inspections made under land-based rural development schemes. The number of visits made in the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Number
2009	3,180
2008	3,510
2007	3,970
2006	4,215
2005	3,443

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many on-farm inspections were made in relation to *(a)* single farm and *(b)* hill farm payments in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [300294]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of on-farm inspections made in relation to single payment scheme (SPS) payments and hill farm allowance (HFA) in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables.

SPS payments

	Type of inspection			
	Physical land eligibility	*Remote sensing follow up on farm*	*Cross-compliance*	*Total number of on-farm inspections*
2005	2,067	292	2,055	4,414
2006	1,188	680	4,678	6,546
2007	1,322	1,090	9,072	11,484
2008	1,267	650	11,098	13,015
2009	1,975	[1]217	[1]7,464	9,656

[1] Inspections to date.

HFA payments

HFA scheme year	*SPS equivalent scheme year*	*Number of on-farm inspections*
2006	2005	544
2007	2006	501
2008	2007	453
2009	2008	356
2010[1]	2009	354

[1] Selection made to date.

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish a table showing the emissions profile of the fuel B30K other than for carbon. [300404]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 November 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

We are unable to produce a table showing the emission profile for the fuel B30K, as we do not have access to all the necessary detailed emissions information. We are able to extract the methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions arising from combustion of B30K, the biodiesel and fossil components, and upstream emissions. However, the information we hold on the constitution of the biodiesel, FAME (fatty acid methyl ester), is expressed in term of carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalents and we are unable to unravel the individual component greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the emissions profile is also influenced by the type of engine in which the fuel is burnt.

Cetaceans: Japan

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Japan on the treatment of whales, dolphins and porpoises; and if he will make a statement. [302836]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 24 October I wrote to the Japanese Fisheries Minister expressing the UK's continued opposition to the killing of whales in the southern and northwest Pacific oceans and to the hunting of small cetaceans in Japanese coastal waters. At this year's International Whaling Commission meeting in June, I raised concerns over the animal welfare implications of small cetacean hunts. The UK also highlighted the plight of the Dall's porpoise in Japan and the high levels of toxic chemicals found in cetacean meat.

The UK Government will continue to make our position known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity and argue that Japanese whaling operations undermine the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of cetacean stocks world-wide.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301159]

Dan Norris: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish on-line, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09. [301013]

Dan Norris: The costs in 2008-09 for cut flowers and pot plants was £25,309.76. It is not possible to split the costs between cut flowers and pot plants as requested.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301325]

Dan Norris: DEFRA staff work in a variety of flexible ways. These include:

part-time working;
job sharing;
compressed hours;
staggered hours;
term-time working;
working from home.

Some 1,693 staff in DEFRA and its agencies work part time as of 31 March 2009. This represents 16 per cent. of the work force. This is an increase of 6 per cent. in three years.

Information on other forms of flexible working is not held centrally. Many arrangements for flexible working, within contracted hours, may be made informally between managers and staff at a local level and will not therefore be recorded on central systems.

Information on flexible and part-time working patterns and practices for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current underspend is on funding from the *(a)* European Regional Development Fund and *(b)* European Rural Development Fund which is administered by his Department; and what the total underspend was on European Regional Development Fund allocations in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [301067]

Dan Norris: The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG has advised that the underspend on the 2000-2006 ERDF programmes in the English regions will not be known until after the final declarations are submitted to the European Commission on 31 March 2010.

For the 2007-13 ERDF programmes, the 2007 allocation must be spent by 31 December 2009. The operational programmes appear to be on track to meet their spending targets.

Funds from the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development are allocated over the seven-year period of the Rural Development Programme for England. Unspent funds may be rolled forward under European Commission rules to be spent in future years. DEFRA is working closely with the rural development delivery bodies to re-profile future budgets to realise the environmental and rural outcomes planned for the programme.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claimants have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded funds under the (i) European Regional Development Fund and (ii) rural development programme for England for (A) the purposes of storing water to prevent flooding down stream and (B) other purposes in the last 18 months. [301069]

Dan Norris: The European regional development fund is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG does not routinely collect the data requested; however it is currently doing so. I will write to the hon. Member for Vale of Yo[illegible] with the information when I receive it.

Under the Rural Development Programme for England, DEFRA has not, to date, funded any projects for the purpose of storing water to prevent flooding downstream.

Under the socio-economic elements (axes 1 and 3) of the Rural Development Programme for England, in the last 18 months there have been approximately 2,550 applications for funding, of which, approximately 1,950 have been approved. These figures do not include agri-environment schemes and the English woodland grant scheme under axis 2.

Floods

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* flood watches, *(b)* flood warnings and *(c)* severe flood warnings have been issued by the Environment Agency in each county in each of the last 10 years. [301716]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency in each of its regions from 2006. The warnings are defined as either flood watches, flood warnings or severe flood warnings depending on the likelihood of flooding occurring.

Flood watches issued

Environment agency region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]	*Total*
North West	376	349	411	169	1,305
Midlands	152	466	470	179	1,267
Anglian	129	442	304	117	992
Thames	139	248	324	175	886
Southern	220	180	200	156	756
EA Wales	385	370	427	376	1,558
South West	311	352	463	430	1,556
North East	217	290	290	173	970
Total	1,929	2,697	2,889	1,775	9,290

Flood warnings issued

Environment agency region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]	*Total*
North West	25	24	85	49	183
Midlands	44	214	244	26	528
Anglian	13	196	108	54	371
Thames	14	37	37	27	115
Southern	6	13	59	59	137
EA Wales	92	109	176	56	433
South West	97	119	269	124	609
North East	91	277	275	148	791
Total	382	989	1,253	543	3,167

Severe flood warnings issued

Environment agency region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]	*Total*
North West	0	0	2	7	9
Midlands	1	22	5	0	28
Anglian	0	25	5	1	31
Thames	0	3	0	0	3
Southern	0	0	1	0	1
North East	0	25	24	1	50
EA Wales	1	0	2	1	4
South West	0	1	7	0	8
Total	2	76	46	10	134

[1] Figures as of 23:59 on 23 November 2009.

Flood warning information is organised into operational areas based on water management catchments. The information above has therefore been organised by Environment Agency region.

Before the Floodline Warnings Direct system became operational in January 2006, flood warnings were sent out locally by Environment Agency offices. Information prior to 2006 is therefore not held centrally and cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

The numbers of flood warnings are dependent on the weather and the number of sites where warnings are issued. The Environment Agency is constantly adding new areas where flood warning services are provided.

Hunting: Employment

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of new jobs in rural areas that have been *(a)* created and *(b)* lost in each year since 2004 in circumstances directly attributable to the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004. [301640]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have made no detailed assessment of the effect of the Hunting Act on the number of jobs lost or created, beyond its normal analysis of the employment situation in rural areas.

This analysis shows that rural employment was not adversely affected by the implementation of the Act, and there is no evidence that the adverse economic consequences, predicted by opponents of the Hunting Act during its passage, have materialised.

Marine Conservation Zones: Dee Estuary

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to establish a marine conservation zone for the Dee estuary. [301618]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Part of the Dee estuary has been accepted by the European Commission as a Site of Community Interest in accordance with the provisions of the Habitats Directive. We now have an obligation to designate the site as a Special Area of Conservation under the Directive. The Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies in England and Wales have also undertaken a consultation on revisions to the existing Special Protection Area (SPA) within the estuary, classified under the Birds Directive. The net effect of these revisions will be to extend the area of the SPA. We expect to make an announcement on these issues shortly.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) together with Special Areas of Conservation under the EU Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive), and Special Protection Areas under EU Directive 79/409/EEC (the Birds Directive) will contribute to an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas. MCZs will complement the existing site designation and protection measures for European marine sites and in some circumstances may fully or partially overlap with such sites, to protect different features.

We want sea users and other stakeholders to participate in identifying MCZs. We have therefore asked statutory nature conservation bodies to set up regional MCZ projects around the coast of England.

The Irish Sea Conservation Zone project area includes part of the Dee estuary. All interested parties are being encouraged to participate in the Irish Sea Conservation Zone project to feed in their knowledge and views which will ultimate lead to MCZ recommendations for the project area to Ministers. The project has not yet begun to identify possible MCZs, so I cannot yet say whether an MCZ is being considered as necessary in addition to protection measures provided by the European marine sites in the Dee estuary.

An MCZ project is also being set up in Wales which will liaise closely with the Irish Sea Conservation Zone project as they cover shared project areas including the Dee estuary.

National Parks Authorities: Local Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* the Association of National Park Authorities on the potential for closer co-operation between local authorities and national parks. [301756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We encourage the national park authorities to explore all avenues to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of national park purposes.

The authorities already work closely with their constituent local authorities and their membership structure provides for the majority being councillors from these local authorities. This close relationship has been further enhanced by the provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Poverty

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in a household formed by a couple in each year since 1997. [300389]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Number of children living in couple families below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 1997-98 to 2007-08, before housing costs

		Number of children (million)
1997-98	GB	2.0
1998-99	GB	2.0
1999-2000	GB	1.8
2000-01	GB	1.7
2001-02	GB	1.7
2002-03	UK	1.7
2003-04	UK	1.7
2004-05	UK	1.6
2005-06	UK	1.7
2006-07	UK	1.7
2007-08	UK	1.8

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI), sourced from the Family Resources Survey. The Family Resources Survey is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. Figures are for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are for Great Britain only.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication HBAI series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the HBAI series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
7. A family is defined as a man or woman living together as husband and wife, including cohabiters. From January 2006, same-sex civil partners are also included in the same benefit unit. A household will consist of one or more families.
8. Number of children in low income have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by her Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [300176]

Jim Knight: Latest available figures show that the proportions of food procured by the Department and produced in the UK are:

	Proportion of food (percentage)
(a) Lamb	39
(b) Beef	72
(c) & *(e)* Poultry	[1]80
(d) Pork	47
(f) Other meats	[2]—
(g) Vegetables	62
(h) Fruit	[3]—

[1] Separate figures for chicken and turkey are not available.

[2] No figures available for other meats.

[3] 100 per cent. when seasonally available.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of her Department and *(b)* organisations she met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301169]

Jim Knight: In its response to a Report by the Public Administration Select Committee Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall, the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301189]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for senior civil servants in her Department in each of the last five years. [300377]

Jim Knight: The figures are set out in the following table.

£

	Average SCS non-consolidated performance related payment	*Highest SCS non-consolidated performance related payment*
2004-05	4,817	10,400
2005-06	7,150	20,000
2006-07	8,377	26,200
2007-08	9,007	20,000
2008-09	9,372	15,000

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by her Department in each of the last three years. [300633]

Jim Knight: It is not DWP practice to pay contractors bonuses or incentives. DWP follows National Audit Office advice which recommends that a variety of payment mechanisms should be used in contract pricing. This approach is also endorsed by the Office for Government Commerce in their Guide to Consultancy Pricing.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date she last travelled by train in the course of her official duties. [301209]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State last travelled by train on 20 November 2009 in the course of her official duties.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [301375]

Jim Knight: Training is provided to Ministers and special advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the Ministerial Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

> http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/Ministerial Programme/Table.asp

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the paths followed by individuals who have failed the work capability assessment of the employment and support allowance (ESA); and what proportion of those found ineligible for ESA claimed *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support in the latest period for which figures are available. [300392]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on movement from employment and support allowance to other benefits is not available. The Department has commissioned research which will examine the path of individuals who were found fit for work at the work capability assessment. Publication of this is planned for 2010.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research her Department has undertaken into the typical reasons why claims for employment and support allowance are withdrawn before a decision on the claim has been reached. [300688]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has commissioned a survey of people who have made a claim for employment and support allowance, which will examine the reasons why claims are ceased before a decision on the claim has been reached. This research will be published in 2010.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what sub-categories are used to classify the medical grounds under which claims for employment and support allowance are made; how many claimants in each *(a)* support group and *(b)* work-related activity group have claimed under each category in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [300689]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available. The detailed classification under which employment and support allowance data will be collected is being developed.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals who commenced a claim for *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* work-related employment and support allowance and *(c)* support group employment and support allowance in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) four quarters had been in receipt of income support immediately prior to their claim commencing. [301785]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have applied for employment and support allowance (ESA) with myalgic encephalopathy alone as their diagnosis have been refused ESA. [301109]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit: Post Office Card Account

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent discussions she has had on the possibility of enabling the local housing allowance to be paid into a Post Office card account; [301954]

(2) what recent assessment her Department has made of the merits of enabling the local housing allowance (LHA) to be paid into the Post Office card account *(a)* for tenants receiving LHA, *(b)* for tenants who do not have bank accounts, *(c)* for local authorities and *(d)* for the Post Office; [301955]

(3) what recent representations she has received on the possibility of enabling the local housing allowance to be paid into a Post Office card account. [301956]

Helen Goodman: The Department has had no recent discussions, and only a small number of representations, about enabling housing benefit (HB) calculated using local housing allowance (LHA) rules, to be paid into the Post Office card account (POCA).

One of the key features of the LHA rules is that, where possible, the benefit is paid to the customer, so that they can take more personal responsibility for their housing, helping them to prepare for when they move into work. In support of this, we want customers living in the private sector to have housing benefit paid into a bank account and to set up a direct debit or standing order to pay their rent to their landlord.

The POCA is a simple account designed to receive payments of benefits and pensions. It does not have the facility for the customer to set up direct debit or standing order payments and is therefore not suitable to receive payments of HB. The Department has recently signed a new contract with Post Office Ltd. for the POCA and no provision was made for direct debits, standing orders or for HB payments.

Most people should be able to open a basic bank account which can be used to receive HB and which also has the facility to set up direct debits or standing orders. There are over 25 such accounts, including 17 basic bank accounts which can be accessed at post offices. These accounts enable customers to use their local post office if this is important to them and also provides additional footfall for sub-postmasters.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of people receiving local housing allowance who do not have a bank account. [301957]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Industrial Health and Safety: Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the inquiry by the Health and Safety Executive into the circumstances surrounding the firefighter fatalities at Atherstone on Stour, Warwickshire on 2 November 2007 to be concluded; and if she will make a statement. [302545]

Jonathan Shaw: The Work Related Death Protocol provides a framework for co-operation between the police, Crown Prosecution Service and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in circumstances such as these. HSE is actively working with Warwickshire police, who currently have primacy in this investigation.

HSE have taken enforcement action against Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and also advised them on compliance with health and safety legislation. HSE have led the investigation with regard to the Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety). The latter includes the responsibilities of the owners of the building. That aspect should be completed very soon. However, as the overall inquiry is being managed by Warwickshire police, I am unable to give any precise or indicative dates. No decisions on individual parts of the investigation will be made until all aspects of this complex and large scale investigation have been completed.

Jobseeker's Allowance: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average period was during which jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland received JSA was in each of the last five years. [301726]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average period during which jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in (a) Houghton & Washington East constituency and (b) Sunderland received JSA was in each of the last 5 years. (301726)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and that claim ending. Table 1 shows the median length of completed claims (off-flows) during the October count period of the last 5 years.

Table 1. Median length of completed claims (off-flows) of Jobseeker's Allowance for claimants resident in Houghton and Washington, East parliamentary constituency and Sunderland

		Months
	Houghton and Washington, East	*Sunderland*
October 2005	7.6	9.6
October 2006	7.8	10.6
October 2007	9.5	9.7
October 2008	7.5	8.3
October 2009	12.8	12.3

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Jobseeker's Allowance: South East Region

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 16 and 24 resident in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* the South East have claimed jobseeker's allowance for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [301285]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 resident in (a) Lewes constituency and (b) the South East have claimed jobseeker's allowance for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. (301285)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of persons aged between 16 and 24, resident in Lewes and the South East, who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for over six and 12 months in each month from November 2007 to October 2009.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] aged 16-24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance by duration of claim

	Lewes		South East	
Duration	*Over 6 months*	*Over 12 months*	*Over 6 months*	*Over 12 months*
November 2007	30	10	2,340	480
December 2007	30	5	2,220	435
January 2008	40	5	2,445	430
February 2008	45	10	2,455	415
March 2008	40	10	2,595	400
April 2008	35	10	2,725	375
May 2008	35	10	2,745	375
June 2008	35	15	2,700	390
July 2008	30	10	2,575	405
August 2008	30	10	2,875	420
September 2008	40	10	2,760	415
October 2008	40	10	2,550	405
November 2008	35	10	2,615	425
December 2008	40	10	2,720	450
January 2009	50	10	3,360	470
February 2009	60	10	4,015	500
March 2009	75	10	4,685	500
April 2009	85	10	5,430	505
May 2009	95	10	6,405	540
June 2009	75	10	6,795	575
July 2009	70	15	6,685	630
August 2009	80	15	8,395	720
September 2009	80	15	8,720	810
October 2009	85	20	8,430	925

[1] Duration of claims is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Note:

Data rounded to nearest 5

Source:

Jobcentreplus Administrative System

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving assistance with their mortgage payments at an interest rate greater than their lender is charging; how much her Department spent on payments to such people in each of the last six months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [302801]

Helen Goodman: This information is not available.

Pipelines: Market Harborough

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will commission research on the likely radius of any damage to local communities that would be caused by an explosion or other disaster following the disruption of the gas distribution pipeline by HM Prison Gartree near Market Harborough. [300260]

Jonathan Shaw: Risk and hazard assessments for natural gas pipelines are based on research carried out over many years by pipeline operators (for example; British Gas, Shell) and HSE. A common understanding has been reached on the types of event that require assessment and these have been used to develop models to determine the hazards from pipeline releases. These models and methodologies are published. Consequently, further research work is not required.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the scale of hazard to local communities presented by the gas distribution pipeline by HM Prison Gartree near Market Harborough; and if she will estimate the TNT equivalent of the explosive qualities of the gas in the pipeline. [300261]

Jonathan Shaw: The pipeline being described by the hon. and learned Member is the National Grid Gas (NGG), National Transmission No. 2 Feeder from Duddington to Churchover. The hazards and risks from the pipeline have been assessed by HSE using published models.

HSE considers that an explosion event is extremely unlikely with this pipeline at this location. Overall, based on HSE's assessment of the hazards, a failure of the NGG No. 2 Feeder at the point closest to HM Prison Gartree should not cause any significant harm to local communities.

Social Security Benefits: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support in Peterborough constituency have been in receipt of that benefit for (i) between five and nine, (ii) between 10 and 11 and (iii) 12 years or over. [302014]

Jonathan Shaw: The most recent available information is in the following table.

Number of claimants for benefits as shown by duration, in Peterborough as at May 2009

	5 to 9 years	10 to 11 years	12 years or over
All	1,260	230	1,200
Jobseeker's Allowance	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Incapacity Benefits	930	180	1,030
Income Support Lone Parents	300	40	130
Carer's Allowance	20	10	30
Others on Income Support	10	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Figures are nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive:

Job seeker—claimant of Jobseeker's Allowance

Incapacity Benefits—claimant of either Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance

Income Support Lone Parents—Income Support claimant with a child under 16 and no partner

Carer's Allowance—where also receiving income support

Others on Income Support—those getting Income Support but not in the categories above.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Work Capability Assessment

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who will carry out the independent review of the work capability assessment; how the views and experiences of people with mental health problems and carers will be taken into account in the review; and who will have access to its results. [302374]

Jonathan Shaw: The independent review of the work capability assessment is currently being commissioned and it is not yet known who will be carrying it out. It will begin in the new year and the reviewer will determine how views and experiences of individuals will be incorporated. The report will be published upon completion.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from the Government Equalities Office took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [300971]

Michael Jabez Foster: In the 2008-09 financial year, Government Equalities Office staff travelled on 44 domestic flights at a total cost of £5,848.25.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in the Government Equalities Office in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [301408]

Michael Jabez Foster: During 2008-09, the Government Equalities Office spent £5,026 on first-class air travel. The details of which are as follows:

Minister	*Origin*	*Destination*	*Cost (£)*
Barbara Follett	London	Amsterdam	442
Barbara Follett	London	New York	4,584

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors the Government Equalities Office's website received in 2008-09. [301841]

Michael Jabez Foster: From 23 November 2008 to 23 November 2009 the Government Equalities Office website received:

(a) 670,258 page hits;

(b) 168,474 individuals who made at least one visit to the site.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Ewing School: Withington

20. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will visit Ewing school in Manchester, Withington constituency to discuss its work in teaching children with speech and communication difficulties. [302066]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given earlier today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

Educational Attainment: One-parent Families

21. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on levels of educational attainment among children in one-parent households; and if he will make a statement. [302067]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers have received no recent representations on this subject.

We do not routinely collect data on levels of educational attainment among children in one-parent households but we do hold survey data on GCSE results and progression to A-level for 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Data from the 2006 Youth Cohort Survey and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England showed 42 per cent. of children from father-only families achieving five GCSEs at A*-C that year, along with 47 per cent. of children from mother-only families.

School Inspections Framework

22. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to review the implementation of the new framework for school inspections; and if he will make a statement. [302068]

Mr. Coaker: HM chief inspector is responsible for the school inspection framework and its implementation. I am advised by Ofsted that in addition to its own internal evaluations and quality monitoring, it plans to commission two independent surveys. They will focus on the impact and implementation of the new school inspection arrangements. Both survey reports will be published by the end of August 2010 and the findings will be used to inform future inspection development.

Discipline

23. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve standards of discipline in schools; and if he will make a statement. [302069]

Mr. Coaker: We have made a commitment that all schools will have good behaviour, strong discipline, order and safety. To secure this ambition, we have launched a new strategy to enable all schools to achieve good or outstanding behaviour standards. The strategy includes a range of measures to support and challenge schools. It builds on existing work which has resulted in the numbers of schools with inadequate behaviour being driven down to less than 1 per cent.

Organ and Blood Donation

24. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Health further steps to promote in schools the NHS Blood and Transplant Service Give and Let Live organ donation education programme. [302070]

Dawn Primarolo: I can confirm that we are in regular contact with our colleagues in the Department of Health on all aspects of promoting the health and well-being of young people including the importance of blood and organ donation.

We consider the Give and Let Live programme, produced by the NHS Blood and Transplant Service, to be extremely useful in helping pupils to improve their knowledge and understanding of key issues relating to organ donation.

School Refurbishment: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals to fund renovation and building of schools in Warrington; and if he will make a statement. [302065]

Mr. Coaker: I informed the House today that Warrington is one of 12 projects that will be joining the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme today. Warrington, alongside Brent, Darlington, Devon, Havering, Kingston and Croydon, Lancashire, Norfolk, Plymouth, Sefton, Tameside, and Wakefield, will embark on their BSF schemes between January and March 2010.

Schools: Discipline

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what misbehaviour by a pupil is *(a)* mandatorily informed to parents, *(b)* mandatorily not informed to parents and *(c)* a matter of discretion. [illegible]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* Schools are currently not required by law to inform parents about their child's misbehaviour. All schools are required to have a behaviour policy setting out the standards of behaviour expected of all pupils.

The Government are committed to improving the information that parents receive from schools on their children's behaviour. The Children, Schools and Families Bill includes a new Parent Guarantee which will clarify the rights and entitlements that every parent can expect to receive from their child's school. This will include a new Home School Agreement, which will ensure that all parents understand the expectations of them and their child and the consequences of not acting to support the school in addressing their child's behaviour issues.

In addition, the Department is currently consulting on amendments to the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, which is the law governing school records and the annual reports that schools send to parents on their children's educational progress.

The proposals we are consulting on include a new statutory requirement for the head teacher's annual report to include information to parents on their child's behaviour.

New measures in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduce a requirement on governing bodies to put into place a system for recording and reporting to parents significant incidents of the use of force by school staff. The provisions allow that the school may report the incident to the local authority where they believe the pupil is likely to be at risk of significant harm if they reported the incident to parents. These provisions are expected to come into force from 1 September 2010.

Schools: Sanitation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 200W, on schools: buildings, whether the discussions with the Paediatric Continence Forum on the adequacy of water and toilet provision in schools are to cover *(a)* minimum standards of provision for existing schools and *(b)* the design of toilet facilities in new build secondary schools covered by the Building Schools for the Future programme. [302785]

Mr. Coaker: The discussions with the Paediatric Continence Forum on 1 December will include these issues.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whose responsibility it is to ensure that disabled children are offered opportunities to participate in inter-school games on a similar basis to that on which other children have such opportunities. [300758]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* It is the responsibility of head teachers to ensure there is adequate provision of PE and sport for all their pupils, including those with a disability. They are supported in this role through their PE teaching staff and the

Government-funded network of School Sport Co-ordinators and Primary Link Teachers across their School Sport Partnership. In addition, the national network of 225 competition managers are working within and across School Sport Partnerships to ensure there are sufficient opportunities in competitive sport for any pupils who want them.

The Government take disability sport very seriously and are investing £2.4 million in the current spending period to provide 450 multi-sport disability clubs, identifying ability days across the country, 1,350 teachers trained to identify ability in young disabled people, and over 400 regional and county disability multi-sport festivals.

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many girls older than 12 and younger than 18 years old became pregnant in each local authority area in 2008. [302543]

Dawn Primarolo: Annual under-18 conception data for 2008 are not yet available. They will be published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in February 2010.

Free School Meals

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals did not achieve five GCSEs at A* to C in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [302057]

Mr. Coaker: Between 2002 and 2008, the percentage of free school meals pupils achieving five GCSEs at A*-C rose by 17 percentage points, compared to a 13.3 percentage point rise for non-Free Schools Meals pupils—so GCSE attainment for all pupils is rising over time, and gaps are narrowing.

The 2009 GCSE results broken down by pupil characteristics will be published on 15 December.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Boilers

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he intends to take to ensure that boilers fired by the fuel B30K remain compliant with sections of table 12 draft Standard Assessment Procedure 2009 and cannot be switched to operate on other heating oils. [300403]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: We are liaising with the industry to ensure they are taking steps to guard against a switch to using other heating oils. We understand that the industry plan to check that the installation is labelled as suitable for the grade of fuel to be delivered before any delivery commences.

The potential problems associated with switching would also be a deterrent. The conversion of a boiler to burn the kerosene/bio-liquid blended fuel B30K is not easily reversible, at least not without further costs for adapting the burner and flushing the oil tank. The B30K blend has different material properties to 100 per cent. kerosene at ambient and operational temperatures and burning kerosene in a B30K installation would lead to boiler firing problems and damage to the equipment.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultancy contracts his Department has signed since January 2006 with expert advisers on the preparation of the *(a)* Energy White Paper and *(b)* Nuclear Power White Paper respectively; and what the monetary value of such contracts is in each case. [301061]

Mr. Kidney: No external expert advisers were employed on preparation of the 2009 UK Low Carbon Transition Plan and the 2008 White paper on Nuclear Power.

For details on the cost of external consultants in preparation of the 2006-07 Energy Review process, culminating in the Meeting the Energy Challenge White Paper, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 896W.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300925]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has a target to find £20 million of savings in 2010-11 as part of the Operational Efficiency Programme. £17.5 million of this will be found from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's non-programme budgets and £2.5 million from savings in core DECC budgets, including through collaborative procurement. These targets will be met through a combination of innovation and strict control of expenditure.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300640]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has no executive agencies.

For DECC's non-departmental public bodies, the Coal Authority, Committee on Climate Change and the Civil Nuclear Police Authority have made no such payments.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) pays its site license company parent body organisations (PBOs) (effectively contractors) performance-based incentives against delivery of site lifetime plans. Increased productivity allows the PBO to earn fees for delivering key targets within a defined timeframe. The PBOs are also incentivised to make cost savings.

NDA's payments to PBOs are published in their annual report and accounts. Payments for the last three years are as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	128
2007-08	97
2008-09	73

NDA does employ consultants for some projects , but specific details of any bonus or incentive arrangements would be commercially confidential.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what weight of paper his Department has recycled since its creation. [300778]

Joan Ruddock: Since DECC's inception in October 2008, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) manage the Department's estate, including recycling services.

DECC occupies two floors of Atholl House which has six in total. From October 2008 to October 2009 Atholl House recycled 20,800kg of paper. It is not possible to provide a split for DECC only.

For both Whitehall Place and 55 Whitehall the figure for recycled paper is 66,503kg from 1 October 2008 to 20 November 2009. It is not possible to provide a split for Whitehall Place only. From October 2008 to mid-April 2009, DECC shared Whitehall Place with DEFRA.

Electricity

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the private sector on Power Factor Correction. [301582]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the Department's officials regularly discuss energy efficiency technologies, and policies that support them, with the private sector. However we have not had specific discussions regarding Power Factor Correction.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has undertaken any recent research on Power Factor Correction and carbon dioxide emissions. [301583]

Joan Ruddock: Neither I nor my officials have conducted research into Power Factor Correction recently.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the installation of Power Factor Correction equipment. [301584]

Joan Ruddock: Power Factor Correction can make significant energy savings in certain installations.

The Government-funded Carbon Trust helps businesses determine whether this is a useful technology for them through free telephone advice and energy saving site surveys. The Trust's small and medium-sized business loans scheme can be used for energy saving technologies, including PFC. Budget 2009 provided an additional £83.9 million for the scheme for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Ofgem on Power Factor Correction. [301585]

Mr. Kidney: Neither I nor officials from the Department have recently discussed Power Factor Correction with Ofgem.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to electricity generation projects using *(a)* tidal power, *(b)* wave power, *(c)* wind, *(d)* biomass, *(e)* hydro power and *(f)* clean coal in the last three years. [300769]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has allocated funding through the following programmes from 2006-09:

Offshore wind capital grants programme—a total of £38,900,000[1]

Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme—£5,082,000

Bio-energy Infrastructure Scheme (in two rounds)—£969,000.

The Renewables Obligation is not funded by DECC but for information, it has provided approximately £2.6 billion of funding for renewable energy technology projects (of all types) in the period 2006-09. This is for all generation by eligible technologies, so includes hydro, wave and tidal, onshore and offshore wind, biomass (dedicated and co-fired) as well as eligible waste technologies.

HMG also provides funding through other delivery partners and for research, development and demonstration projects which are not yet operational—this is the case for tidal, wave, and clean coal.

[1] The figure for offshore wind capital grants programme is accurate to September 2009.

Energy Performance Certificates

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of commercial undertakings in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in England which have obtained an energy performance certificate in respect of the premises they occupy. [300249]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

There is no centrally held information upon which to base such an estimate.

Nuclear Decommissioning Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency has made to Bell Pottinger in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302308]

Mr. Kidney: Over the period in question NDA used Bell Pottinger to provide strategic communications advice, stakeholder research and parliamentary monitoring services. Payments made were as follows:

	£
2006	32,000.00
2007	166,860.53
2008	190,673.70
2009	46,242.90

Nuclear Engineering: Training

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many courses there are in the country to train nuclear engineers. [301749]

Mr. Kidney: There are a number of courses available in the UK to train nuclear engineers ranging from apprenticeships to post graduates. This includes 11 universities which run nuclear related courses.

A summary of courses available is as follows:

Apprenticeships in Engineering, offered across the National Skills Academy for Nuclear provider network

NVQs in Decommissioning and Radiation Protection

New Foundation Degree Engineering (nuclear) developed between the Skills Academy and Portsmouth and Central Lancashire Universities

Award for Nuclear Industry Awareness

Certificate of Nuclear Professionalism under development

NTEC Masters Programme

Variety of HE programmes detailed on—

http://nuclearliaison.com/nl-courses including circa 11 universities and 20 courses.

Nuclear Power: Planning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria will be used to appoint commissioners to the Infrastructure Planning Commission's review of the proposals contained in the national nuclear policy statements issued on 9 November 2009. [301059]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Earlier in the year we appointed a chair, two deputy chairs and a number of salaried commissioners. On 15 November we launched a further competition for the appointment of commissioners to a register. I have placed the job advert and person specifications in the House Library.

The IPC does have a role as a statutory consultee narrowly on whether national policy statements are fit for purpose but not on national policy.

Renewables Obligation: Water Power

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to increase the level of assistance provided by his Department through the Renewables Obligation to *(a)* tidal stream, *(b)* wave and *(c)* other emerging renewable energy technologies under his Department's marine action plan; and when he expects that plan to be published. [303127]

Mr. Kidney: The Government plan to publish their marine action plan by spring next year. This action plan will set out the key steps which will need to be taken by both Government and industry to support the mass deployment of wave and tidal stream technologies going forward. Areas considered will include the level and availability of grants, loans, capital provision, and revenue support through the Renewables Obligation.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments the UK Atomic Energy Authority has made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302297]

Mr. Kidney: Grayling Political Strategy was appointed by UKAEA as public affairs consultant in April 2004 after a competitive tendering process following the passage of the Energy Act 2004 and a period of significant change in the industry.

UKAEA had to respond and restructure during this time in a manner which would offer best value for money for the taxpayer. Grayling provided the services of: public affairs strategic advice, support with key stakeholder engagement and national media support.

The contract has now expired. However payments to Grayling Political Strategy in the last three years were as follows:

2008-09: nil

2007-08: £34,488

2006-07: £140,923.

TRANSPORT

A5: M1

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 58W, on the A5-M1 link, under what budget headings the £11.8 million was spent. [302802]

Chris Mole: The £11.8 million has been spent on preparing the scheme to achieve particular milestones. To date, these have included:

Options identification including options to be taken to public consultation, assessment of environmental impact and economic benefits.

Options selection including public consultation, public exhibitions and preferred route announcement.

Preliminary design (current phase) including surveys (geotechnical, environmental etc.), preliminary design of the preferred route and additional design resulting from the transfer of works from the M1 J10-13 Improvements Scheme, preparation for publication of draft orders and the draft orders public exhibitions.

Lands costs including property purchased under blight.

The scheme is being progressed through the Major Projects Project Control Framework (PCF).

The PCF process involves a number of products/reports to be produced or reviewed in each stage. Further information, if required, in regard to these products can be found on the Highways Agency website—Road Projects: How we manage our roads.

Aviation: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the real terms cost of travelling by air was in each year since 1997, taking 1997 as the baseline. [301289]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic and international flights:

Average UK one-way airfare, 1997 prices

	£
1997	204
1998	193
1999	164
2000	159
2001	144
2002	130
2003	113
2004	108
2005	101
2006	104
2007	94
2008	94

Notes:

1. 'Fare' includes all taxes and charges.
2. Covers domestic and international scheduled flights, but excludes transfer and charter passengers.
3. Improved domestic dataset based on a sample of routes in Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) passenger interview surveys used, domestic fares exclude Channel Islands.

Source:

Department for Transport analysis of CAA and IPS data.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300866]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not have plans to host any Christmas parties in 2009. Staff may organise their own internal social events to celebrate Christmas but these would be funded by the staff members themselves. It is not considered appropriate to use public money to fund such events.

As such, the Department does not record the provenance of any food or drink served at Christmas parties.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300941]

Chris Mole: Specific departmental targets for the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) have not been set for the current spending review period.

However, the Department for Transport is fully committed to operational efficiency, and to improving both our efficiency and effectiveness in the provision and purchasing of back-office services and associated assets. We have undertaken a high-level review of our scope for business improvement, and have embarked upon change and improvement work programmes particularly focused on finance, human resources and procurement. Each of these programmes is co-ordinated and overseen centrally by a new board sub-committee, the Business Process Programme Board.

These work programmes will leave us well placed to contribute to the savings anticipated for the next spending review period in the OEP report, published alongside the Budget in April 2009.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301855]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport website (www.dft.gov.uk) received 19,894,211 page impressions from 3,478,952 unique visitors in the financial year 2008-09.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road incidents where one or more drivers did not have insurance took place in Norwich North constituency in the last 10 years. [301702]

Paul Clark: No information is held on uninsured driving on a constituency basis.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which a system of graduated driver licences fulfils the four tests set out in his Department's October 2008 consultation, Learning to Drive. [302514]

Paul Clark: An assessment of graduated licensing was undertaken as part of the development of our "Learning to Drive" consultation paper. This concluded that the introduction of graduated licensing restrictions here would bring extensive social and economic costs, and highly uncertain benefits.

There were almost 7,000 responses to the consultation showing a general support for our view that an approach based on education and incentives, through better training and testing, is the best way to improve the safety of newly-qualified drivers.

We continue to monitor any emerging evidence relating to increased regulation and post-test restrictions, including evidence from other countries.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the conclusion in October 2008 of his Department's consultation, Learning to Drive, what consideration he has given to the potential effect on the number of deaths of young drivers of the introduction of a system of graduated driver licences. [302521]

Paul Clark: Estimated average casualty reductions, for each of the options considered in the Consultation, were included in the Impact Assessment published alongside the "Learning to Drive" consultation paper:

Option	*Estimated reduction in deaths per annum*	*Estimated reduction in serious injuries per annum*
B—improved driver training and testing	16-65	116-466
C—restrictions on learner drivers	3-14	21-103
D—restrictions on newly qualified drivers	17-34	121-241

Source:
Tables 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 from Impact Assessment of proposed changes to car driving training and testing

In addition to providing lower casualty reductions, the placing of post-test restrictions on newly-qualified drivers would also bring extensive social and economic costs. People learn to drive for many reasons and most young people want to be law abiding, safe drivers. Graduated licensing would have many adverse effects for the responsible majority, such as restricting access to education and evening jobs.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of flights *(a)* arriving at and *(b)* taking off from Heathrow Airport were late in 2008; and what the (i) maximum and (ii) average delay was in that year. [302040]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the percentage of flights *(a)* arriving at and *(b)* taking off from Heathrow airport which were late in 2008 and the average delay. Information relating to maximum delay is not available:

	Arrivals	*Departures*
Number of flights matched	234,154	234,456
Percentage late	33.0	37.5
Average delay (minutes)	18.5	19.3

Note:
The airline industry standard for on-time departures/arrivals is within 15 minutes of the advertised time. "Percentage late" is therefore flights departing/arriving 15 minutes or more after the advertised time.
Source:
CAA punctuality statistics.

Inquiries: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to respond to the Napoli public inquiry conducted by Devon County Council. [301868]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's Maritime and Coastguard Agency has assembled a list of recommendations relating to maritime transport issues from a range of reports concerning the "MSC Napoli" incident, including the report of the local public inquiry conducted by Devon county council. Work is in progress to assess these recommendations, and the conclusions will be placed in the public domain in due course.

National Express East Coast

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to safeguard the employment of workers employed at the customer contact centre at Baron House, Newcastle following the relinquishing of the franchise for the East Coast Main Line by National Express. [302635]

Chris Mole: The customer contact centre at Baron House is operated by National Express. The contract for the services provided by the contact centre with respect to East Coast was transferred from NXEC Trains Limited to East Coast under a Statutory Transfer Scheme. The ongoing contract to provide these services is a commercial matter between National Express and East Coast trains.

Network Rail: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what factors he took into account when deciding what funding should be allocated by Network Rail for railway station upgrades in response to the Station Champions report; and if he will make a statement. [302012]

Chris Mole: The £50 million was announced in response to the Station Champions' specific recommendation about the need for and level of priority funding to improve the 10 major interchange stations that were identified in their report as being in most need of urgent attention. We will also challenge the industry and local government to raise part of the money required for each of the stations themselves.

Norwich-London Railway Line

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent rebranding trains or rolling stock used on the Norwich to London railway line in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* to date in 2009-10. [302202]

Chris Mole: Rebranding of rolling stock on the Norwich to London railway line is a commercial matter for the operators on the route. As such, the Department for Transport does not have information related to how much was spent rebranding trains or rolling stock used on the Norwich to London railway line in the years in question.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of road crossing regulations in ensuring the safety of blind and partially-sighted pedestrians. [300222]

Mr. Khan: The regulations and Department for Transport guidance which apply to controlled pedestrian crossings were developed through consultation with relevant groups to take account of the needs of blind and partially-sighted pedestrians.

The Department for Transport has made no specific assessment of the effectiveness of the regulations on the safety of blind and partially-sighted pedestrians.

Railways

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the National Policy Statement on National Networks will be published; and which bodies have been consulted in its preparation. [302110]

Chris Mole: The National Networks National Policy Statement will be designated following parliamentary scrutiny and full public consultation. To facilitate this, it is planned to publish it in draft form early next year.

Railways: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure that accurate rail pathing data are available before determination of the planning appeal into the strategic rail freight interchange proposal for the former Radlett Aerodrome site. [302104]

Chris Mole: I cannot comment on a development proposal which is currently under consideration in the planning system or comment on a specific matter relating to that proposal. However, it is Government policy to support the development of a network of strategic rail freight interchanges across the regions to assist mode shift (from road to rail), to reduce lorry journeys and reduce carbon.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average age is of the rolling stock used on mainline railway services in England. [302199]

Chris Mole: The average age of the UK rolling stock fleet as of the end of October was 16 years.

Shipping: Training

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 638W on shipping: training, on what dates he has met representatives of Nautilus International to discuss seafarer training in the last 12 months. [302632]

Paul Clark: I met Nautilus International on the following dates:

29 July 2009
6 October 2009

At these meetings a number of issues were discussed including seafarer training.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date he expects the first of the new carriages for the Thameslink line to be in operation. [300740]

Chris Mole: The first of the new Thameslink carriages are expected to enter passenger service in 2013.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department has used to assess potential recruits to the Afghan police force. [300315]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has no involvement in the assessment of potential recruits for the Afghanistan National Police (ANP). The Government of Afghanistan are responsible for the recruitment of all members of the ANP which, in June 2009, numbered in the region of 80,000.

The UK Government contribute to the training of ANP personnel through the provision of Police Mentoring Teams and support to the embryonic Helmand Police Training Centre. Currently the UK has policing experts deployed in Afghanistan, who serve in both EU and US Police Missions. In addition to these experts, since 2006, UK troops have worked with the ANP in a mentoring role in Helmand Province.

That said, investigations into the incident on 3 November in which five UK soldiers were killed by an individual wearing a Afghan National Police uniform are continuing. Both ISAF and the Afghan authorities have expressed their considerable regret over the incident, and all are clear that the investigations into this matter should be thorough and that any necessary subsequent action will be taken.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the number of qualified helicopter pilots available for operations in Afghanistan over the next two years. [301448]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Helicopter operations are vital to success in Afghanistan, and we are providing effective training to ensure that there are sufficient trained crews, including pilots. Following their initial training at the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury, pilots conduct operational conversion training in the UK, and theatre specific pre-deployment training with their squadron on the aircraft types that they will be flying in Afghanistan. These arrangements are serving us well, and meeting our requirement for qualified pilots, but we keep them under review to ensure that we continue to sustain operational capability.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many months on average of pre-deployment training armed forces personnel receive prior to their deployment in Afghanistan. [301527]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For all services, pre-deployment training starts at basic training where military and common core skills are taught. This process takes 12 months on average to complete.

Building upon those core skills, personnel undertake theatre specific individual training prior to deploying on operations. The training required is based upon the individual's previous experience of operations, the time since they last deployed to an operational theatre, and the role they would be expected to conduct when deployed. Assuming that an individual is current with all forms of basic military skills, the Royal Navy personnel undertake an additional four weeks of specific training, and Army and Royal Air Force personnel undertake between two and four weeks of additional training.

A second element of pre-deployment training is concerned with the preparation of a formed unit. This collective training is determined by the role the unit is to undertake, including the possible need to re-role, for example, moving from a non-infantry to an infantry role.

Training is continually evaluated to ensure our armed forces are suitably prepared for a number of eventualities. Determination of an average time scale for the pre-deployment training of a formed unit would require a manual search of records of training for all units and sub-units, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he made of the flying hours of *(a)* UK and *(b)* coalition partners' helicopters and aircrew in Afghanistan in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [302094]

Bill Rammell: Since November 2006, there has been a 95 per cent. increase in UK battlefield helicopter flying hours, and further increases are planned over the coming months, in line with enhancements to our helicopter capability.

In addition, and as part of the wider NATO effort, US, Dutch, Canadian and Australian helicopters are available to commanders in southern Afghanistan. Details of the flying hours undertaken by our Allies are not available, but I can confirm that their helicopters, along with the UK's, are an essential part of the multinational pool available to Regional Commander (South) and they continue to make a significant contribution to operational tasking.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving military personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force have been placed in temporary accommodation as part of an authorised reconciliation period in each of the last five years. [301863]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is held neither centrally nor in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Per Capita Costs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent per soldier on new individual equipment in each year since 2001; and how much is planned in each of the next five years. [301447]

Bill Rammell: The cost of the equipment which is issued to individual recruits on their entry into Army training is currently in the region of £860.

Additional clothing and equipment is issued dependent on the role to be undertaken. For example, Osprey Body Armour and personal weapons are not issued on a permanent basis but prior to undertaking a task that requires their use.

The levels of future expenditure will therefore be determined by the varied roles our service personnel continue to undertake.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secret[illegible] State for Defence what provision has been made for enhanced postal services for armed forces personnel serving abroad over the Christmas and new year period. [302109]

Bill Rammell: The MOD will be making all possible efforts to ensure deliveries of mail to members of the armed forces serving abroad over the Christmas and new year period. In the UK extra staff have been hired by the British Forces Post Office to manage the increased volumes of post. Additional aircraft are being chartered as necessary to transport mail from the UK to theatre with additional service personnel being allocated to this task in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.

We are also doing all we can to channel the public's generosity towards service charities and away from unsolicited parcels, which have the ability to overload the system and cause delays for mail from families.

Armed Forces: Telephone Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide extra minutes of free talk time above normal allocations over the Christmas and new year period for armed forces personnel serving abroad. [302108]

Bill Rammell: Armed forces personnel and MOD civil servants serving abroad on operations routinely receive 30 minutes free talk time during Christmas week from the Ministry of Defence. This is in addition to their regular weekly allocation, which is a minimum of 30 minutes, dependant on tour length. These allowances are provided under the WelComE (Welfare Communications Everywhere) project, which forms part of the Deployment Welfare Package.

This year, during the week of new year, they will also receive an additional 30 minutes from Paradigm, the communications company responsible for providing the WelComE service, to mark its tenth anniversary.

Armed Forces: Young People

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces registered before their 18th birthday an unhappiness with their choice of career as grounds to leave the armed forces in each of the last three years. [302891]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally or in the format requested. Service personnel elect to leave the service for a variety of reasons, some of whom decide to rescind their decision. To determine the number of service personnel specific to the criteria requested could only be obtained by a manual search of records which would incur disproportionate cost.

Army: Languages

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Army have been sent on the specialist 10-week Pashto language course. [302817]

Bill Rammell: The 10-week Pashto language course has been delivered since 2006. The throughput of Land Forces personnel, which includes the Royal Marines, is as follows by financial year:

FY	*Personnel*
2006-07	38
2007-08	84
2008-09	76
2009-10 to date	[1]70
2010-11	[2]156

[1] It is estimated that a total of 91 personnel will have completed this course by the end of the financial year.

[2] Estimate.

The rise in numbers reflects an increased requirement to provide deploying brigades with language capability to enhance interaction with the Afghan population.

Army: Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving infantry soldiers there are in the Army. [301960]

Bill Rammell: At 1 October the infantry had 2,740 trained officers against a liability of 2,520 and 21,350 trained soldiers against a liability of 21,999.

This represents an increase of 40 in officer strength and 1,470 in soldier strength over the last 12 months. This results from a combination of a greater number of recruits entering training and passing out into the field Army, coupled with an improvement in retention. While this may be attributed in part to the economic climate, a combination of infantry-specific financial incentives and Army-wide retention measures have also had an impact.

Army: Training

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of infantry recruits did not complete their training at the Infantry Training Centre in each of the last five years. [301268]

Bill Rammell: The following table sets out the numbers of infantry recruits who commenced their basic training at the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick (ITC(C)) and who failed to complete their training.

		Number of recruits who fail to complete their training (as a percentage of those starting)	
Financial year	*Number of recruits commencing their initial training at ITC(C)*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2009-10	2,969	910	30.7
2008-09	3,828	1,141	29.8
2007-08	3,458	1,180	34.1
2006-07	3,398	1,037	30.5
2005-06	2,517	892	35.4
2004-05	2,420	837	34.6

Note:
Figures for 2009-10 are as at 20 November 2009.

Those who leave do so for a variety of reasons. Some find that they are not suited to a career in the Army; others leave for medical reasons or find that they cannot reach the high standards required by the Army. Importantly, every recruit who leaves ITC(C) does so only after staff have thoroughly explored all options to retain them.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the land forces equipment budget was allocated to aviation in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [302095]

Bill Rammell: The percentage of the land equipment budget which has been allocated to aviation for the period 2008-09 to 2018-19 is 38 per cent.

This figure is the percentage of the core programme budgeted expenditure for aircraft platforms and equipments used primarily in support of land forces; and those platforms where there is a shared service element.

Departmental Drinking Water

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on bottled water in each of the last 12 months. [302547]

Bill Rammell: Expenditure on bottled water used within the Ministry of Defence is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Bottled water is supplied through multi-activity, private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts. In accordance with Government policy on sustainable procurement, the supply of bottled water is to be removed from such contracts, where drinkable tap water is available.

Separately, bottled water is supplied to service personnel under the MOD world-wide food supply contract. Expenditure against the current contract for each of the last 12 months is provided in the following table.

	Value (£000)
November 2008	51.7
December 2008	43.7
January 2009	23.2
February 2009	34.1
March 2009	56.5
April 2009	40.3
May 2009	53.8
June 2009	78.3
July 2009	124.5
August 2009	137.6
September 2009	155.3
October 2009	394.2

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [300519]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has not held contracts which contain exclusivity agreements for the provision of information technology hardware or software over the last five years.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301155]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In their response to a Report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Property

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours were spent filming by external organisations at locations owned by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [303164]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what budget headings his Department's allocation to the *(a)* Afghanistan Delivery Groups, *(b)* Tri-Departmental Stabilisation Unit and *(c)* Conflict Pool referred to in his Department's Winter Supplementary Estimate for 2009-10 will be spent. [303013]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As outlined by the Foreign Secretary in a written ministerial statement on 25 March 2009, the newly combined conflict pool subsumes all activity under the conflict prevention pool and Stabilisation Aid Fund. Since this change occurred halfway through the financial year, the headings under which they appear in the parliamentary estimate have to remain as detailed at main estimates. Since then, it has been confirmed that the overall responsibility for the conflict pool rests with DFID and as such, the funding rests on that baseline.

The MOD will continue to run those programmes for which we have the necessary experience and technical knowledge. The £6.729 million indicated in the WSE represent the transfer of authority of those funds that the MOD no longer maintains financial authority for, as responsibility for all previous SAF programmes has now moved to DFID. Activities carried out by the MOD in terms of the SAF and CPP can be seen the Departmental Resource and Accounts:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReport0809/

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [301374]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Training is provided to Ministers and special advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the "Ministerial Code" and the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers". Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/Ministerial Programme/Table.asp

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301322]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information on how many staff who work part-time is published in the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) Civilian Manpower Statistics report, released in November 2009. This can be found at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

The data requested on the numbers of staff in non-departmental public bodies who work flexibly are not held centrally. We do have data on the number of staff in agencies and trading funds who work part-time. The figures are shown in the table.

The MOD provides a range of working patterns that supports the matching of the business needs with those of the individual. Very few posts are deemed unsuitable for alternative patterns of work. The civil service job share website is available to part-time staff wishing to find job share partners.

Headcount

		1 April 2009		
MOD Executive Agency/Trading Fund Organisation	*Part time*	*Full time*	*Total*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Defence Storage And Distribution Agency	105	2,660	2,770	3.8
Defence Vetting Agency	45	380	430	10.5
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency	170	7,540	7,720	2.2
People Pay and Pensions Agency	220	960	1,180	18.7
Service Children's Education	1,090	220	1,310	83.2
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	330	710	1,030	31.7
Ministry of Defence (less agencies)	4,680	47,070	51,760	9.0
Core MOD	6,640	59,550	66,200	10.0
Meteorological Office	150	1,750	1,900	7.8
Defence Evaluation And Research Agency	320	3,260	3,580	9.0
UK Hydrographic Office	110	880	990	11.0
Defence Support Group	120	3,260	3,390	3.7
Trading fund total	700	9,150	9,860	7.2
Core MOD and trading fund total	7,350	68,710	76,060	9.7

Notes:
1. All numbers have been individually rounded to the nearest 10, and may total to sub totals and overall totals.
2. Percentages have been calculated from raw unrounded numbers.
3. Totals exclude personnel employed in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) and locally engaged civilians (LECs) for whom part time/full data is not available.

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302162]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD policy directs that all Service personnel and MOD civilians using vehicles provided by the Department, including privately owned vehicles used for official duties, must have a valid driving licence for the type of vehicle being used together with an appropriate level of insurance for private vehicles. Responsibility for applying this policy and checking compliance lies at business unit level.

MOD Personnel and MOD Transport policy directs that all business units, including agencies, provide advice on road safety to all staff. Such advice is normally provided by Defence Road Safety Advisors or at unit level by Unit Road Safety Officers. This advice is supplemented and supported by a rolling programme of campaigns such as the Defence Road Safety Week (23-27 November 2009). The policy also provides guidance for line managers on causes of impairment of driving and preventative measures, and on accident reporting requirements which also apply to private vehicles being used on official duties. It is a requirement that all incidents or accidents resulting in fatality or serious injury are investigated and lessons identified shared to prevent recurrence.

Members: Correspondence

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey's constituent A.R.F. Carter. [303123]

Bill Rammell: I replied to my hon. Friend yesterday. I sincerely apologise for the time it has taken to reply. This has been due to an administrative error.

RAF Welford

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects RAF Welford to be placed under care and maintenance arrangements from September 2010. [302631]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no plans for RAF Welford to be placed under care and maintenance arrangements.

Special Reconnaissance Regiment: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Special Reconnaissance Regiment are based in Northern Ireland. [302824]

Bill Rammell: It is the long-standing policy of this and previous Governments not to comment on matters relating to UK special forces, as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Submarines

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* the interim storage of laid-up submarines project and *(b)* the submarine dismantling project to date. [302359]

Bill Rammell: The ISOLUS (interim storage of laid-up submarines) project was renamed the submarine dismantling project (SDP) in May 2009. As it remained the same project, and the name change was implemented over a period of time, it is not possible to clearly distinguish between expenditure under each of the two names. A reasonable approximation, however, would be to consider expenditure from financial year 2009-10 as being under the SDP name, and expenditure in previous years as being under the ISOLUS name.

For expenditure on the project up to the end of financial year 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 54W. The current forecast spend on the project in financial year 2009-10 is £3.8 million.

Weapons

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many weapons for which his Department has responsibility have been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 years; [301594]

(2) how many armed forces weapons were recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in 2008. [302548]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 24 November 2009]*: The following tables set out details of Ministry of Defence firearms recorded as lost/stolen during each of the last 12 calendar years, or in the case of 2009 to date. With the exception of the latest figures for 2009, this information is already in the public domain having been provided in response to previous parliamentary questions. Some minor adjustments have been made to a small number of previously provided figures to reflect the latest available information.

Lost weapons

	Pistols	*Rifles*	*Sub-machine guns*	*Machine guns*
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	2	0	1	0
2000	0	1	0	0
2001	3	0	2	0
2002	3	4	4	0
2003	3	1	0	0
2004	10	3	0	0
2005	3	7	0	0
2006	11	20	0	6
2007	16	9	0	0
2008	17	12	0	0
2009	2	7	0	2

Stolen weapons

	Pistols	*Rifles*	*Sub-machine guns*	*Machine guns*
1998	3	12	0	0
1999	0	9	0	0
2000	21	2	0	0
2001	3	3	0	0
2002	2	0	0	0
2003	6	0	0	0
2004	10	15	0	0
2005	5	9	0	0
2006	6	6	0	0
2007	9	18	0	0
2008	20	14	0	3
2009	13	9	0	0

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to mark the 75th anniversary of the British Council. [302385]

Chris Bryant: The 75th Anniversary of the British Council has been marked with a programme of events and exhibitions across the UK. These have included: a series of lectures and debates about international education, science, art and culture, exhibitions from the British Council art collection in London, Swansea and Belfast, a film tour in Scotland and a concert of UK and international musical collaborations field in London. Activities have been open to the public and have attracted over 20,000 people to date.

Colombia: Overseas Trade

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the organisation Justice for Colombia on the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the European Union and Colombia; what assessment he has made of those representations; and if he will make a statement. [302386]

Chris Bryant: We have not received written representations directly from Justice for Colombia on this issue, although delegates of a Justice for Colombia visit to Colombia in April 2009 raised it with our Ambassador in Bogota and Justice for Colombia has regularly raised it with us directly.

We believe that free trade agreements can help to create the right circumstances for improved stability, where human rights stand a better chance of flourishing. Denying Colombia access to the economic opportunities presented by a multi-party trade agreement would undermine this prospect. We believe that any free trade agreement must have clear and enforceable human rights clauses.

Departmental Contracts

✎ **John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1420W, on departmental pay, what the name is of each employer supplying staff in London working on services contracted out by his Department, including on contracts that have been sub-let and business that has been awarded where the contract is not exclusive to London; what the nature is of the work undertaken on each contract; how many staff at each *(a)* grade and *(b)* location work on each contract; what the length of each contract is; and what union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [303015]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Responsibility for contracting for services is devolved to individual directorates, departments and overseas posts within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office against the provision of central advice and guidance. Each directorate, department and post would need to be contacted to obtain the details requested, requiring additional resource which would exceed the current threshold for disproportionate cost.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303131]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) seeks best value for money which is the optimum combination of whole-life costs and quality to meet the requirements. Contracts in the FCO are awarded to the 'most economically advantageous tender' as defined in the UK regulations implementing EU directives. The regulations list a number of criteria, by way of example, that contracting authorities can use to identify which tender would be the most economically advantageous. These award criteria include price, delivery or performance dates, running costs, cost-effectiveness, quality, aesthetic and functional characteristics, after-sales service and technical assistance.

No records are kept on how much is spent on the advertisement of tenders, although many of our contracts are advertised in the *Official Journal* to the *European Journal* and via the FCO's websites, at no direct cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301852]

Chris Bryant: In 2008-09 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) entire web platform received 203,590,731 page views and 34,712,798 visitors, of which, 26,040,659 were unique visitors. These figures include page views and visitors to all of our 250 departmental websites. They represent a significant increase on the FCO's 2007-08 figures.

In 2008-09 the FCO's corporate website

www.fco.gov.uk

received 56,098,612 page views and 11,508,398 visitors, of which, 9,113,289 were unique visitors.

These statistics exclude robots, spiders, performance monitoring and automated link checking.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301162]

Chris Bryant: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers meet a variety of individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. A record of all individuals met is not held centrally.

A list of organisations met by Ministers is regularly placed on the FCO website at:

http://foi.fco.gov.uk/en/released-documents/view-releases/releases-date-2009

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department was of the provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302972]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides its staff with a safe, effective and modern working environment within the context of historic buildings whose internal configuration cannot easily be changed. The space occupied by Press Office staff, and cost of their facilities, varies according to staffing levels throughout the year. Press Office uses communal facilities such as meeting rooms and break out spaces which are shared with other staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is therefore not possible to state accurately the cost of office facilities for Press Office.

The space and cost of the offices provided for Special Advisers is similar to the reply given to the hon. Member by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Gillian Merron, on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1755W, except that for a period of six months in 2008-09 there was an additional Special Adviser who had an office. The costs within the FCO buildings for an individual office cannot be accurately identified as all costs are compiled by building.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302716]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally, and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [302944]

Chris Bryant: Training is provided to Ministers and special advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the Ministerial Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/Ministerial Programme/Table.asp

Fiji: Politics and Government

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the political situation in Fiji. [302679]

Chris Bryant: The UK remains seriously concerned about the situation in Fiji, particularly following developments in April 2009, when the regime abrogated the constitution, suspended the courts and introduced Public Emergency Regulations, including press and media censorship. We are particularly concerned that the regime has ruled out elections before 2014, and we have called for a prompt return to democratic processes and institutions. Fiji was suspended from the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009. The UK maintains that an inclusive and open dialogue with all parties in Fiji, as well as international partners, is needed to help Fiji make an early and successful return to a democratically elected Government. We continue to raise our concerns over the human rights situation in Fiji in UN and EU fora.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister of Fiji, with particular reference to the recent expulsion from Fiji of the High Commissioners of *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand; and if he will make a statement. [302680]

Chris Bryant: As Minister responsible for the Pacific I issued a strong press statement expressing disappointment at the expulsion of the Australia and New Zealand envoys to Fiji on 3 November 2009. I spoke to the Foreign Ministers of both countries on 4 November 2009 to offer our continued support. Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary have spoken to Prime Minister Bainimarama. Our High Commissioner in Suva called on him on 10 November 2009 to convey our deep disappointment at the expulsions.

Forced Marriage

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of forced marriages involving at least one British citizen which took place in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each other country in each year since 1997; and how many such citizens were (i) male and (ii) female. [303024]

Chris Bryant: The very nature of forced marriage means that cases often go unreported. The joint Home Office—Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) are working with governmental and non-governmental partners to build the best statistical picture possible. The statistics we do have are based on the work of the FMU since its establishment in 2005 and are fuller from 2008 when a new system of recording data was implemented.

Statistics for 2009 (January to end October):

1,327 instances in which the FMU gave advice or support related to possible forced marriage.

286 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU.

14 per cent. were male and 86 per cent. were female.

The geographic balance of cases associated with other countries/regions was as follows: Pakistan (57 per cent.), Bangladesh (10 per cent.), India (8 per cent.), Turkey (2 per cent.), Africa (1 per cent.), Afghanistan (1 per cent.), and other (7 per cent.). 14 per cent. of cases were solely linked to the UK or were of unknown origin.

Statistics for 2008:

1,618 instances in which the FMU gave advice or support related to possible forced marriage.

420 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU.

15 per cent. of victims were male and 85 per cent. female.

The geographic balance of cases associated with other countries/regions was as follows: Pakistan (57 per cent.), Bangladesh (13 per cent.), India (7 per cent.), Middle Eastern (3 per cent.), Africa (2 per cent.), Turkey (1 per cent.), Afghanistan (1 per cent.), European (1 per cent.), and other (4 per cent.). 11 per cent. of cases were solely linked to the UK or were of unknown origin.

Statistics for 2007:

202 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU in the UK and overseas.

Statistics for 2006:

182 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU in the UK and overseas.

Statistics for 2005:

152 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases dealt with by the FMU in the UK and overseas.

Gulf Cooperation Council: EU External Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the signing of a EU free trade agreement with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council; and if he will make a statement. [301973]

David Miliband: Following the 19th EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting on 29 April 2009, discussions between the EU and the GCC over the signing of a free trade agreement (FTA) continue. The Government remain committed to securing an FTA between the EU and GCC.

India: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political stability of Orissa province. [301120]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have seen no reports suggesting that Orissa is politically unstable. Orissa has a stable local government and the Chief Minister was returned for a third time in the recent national elections. India's internal security is solely a matter for the Indian Government and state level authorities.

India: Religious Freedom

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he has offered to the Indian Government on the restoration of religious tolerance in Orissa. [301119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not provided direct assistance to the Indian Government to restore religious tolerance in India. The Indian Government have not requested such assistance. However, we welcome the efforts made by the Indian authorities to uphold the right to freedom of religion of all its citizens under the Indian constitution.

Israel: Arms Control

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the *(a)* provenance and *(b)* destination of the shipment of arms seized by the Israeli navy off the coast of Cyprus in November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [301974]

David Miliband: The information provided by the Government of Israel to the UN Security Council in early November alleging that it had intercepted an arms shipment (on the Francop ship) from Iran to Syria potentially indicates a serious breach of both UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1701. It also appears to be part of a pattern of arms shipments from Iran. If that is the case, it is deeply irresponsible. We will work in New York to ensure that the Iran Sanctions Committee pursues this matter thoroughly and urgently.

Israel: Borders

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent progress by the Israeli Government in removing checkpoints and security barriers on the west bank. [301839]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Israeli Government have recently removed some obstacles to movement and access in the west bank. In June 2009, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) listed 613 obstacles in the west bank. As of the end of October 2009, the UNOCHA listed 578 obstacles in the west bank.

However, this falls short of the Israeli announcement in September 2009 that Israel would remove 100 obstacles. A UNOCHA investigation, using co-ordinates provided by the Israeli Defence Forces, found that not all of these 100 obstacles had been removed, and that 61 of the 100 had not originally featured on the UNOCHA list of 613 obstacles because they were deemed insignificant.

None the less, the removal of some obstacles is a step in the right direction. We urge the Israeli Government to ensure that these improvements in movement and access are maintained and improved. We also commend the Palestinian security forces for their efforts to improve security in the west bank, which has in turn given Israel confidence to ease restrictions.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the implementation of the Ahtisaari Plan for the supervised independence of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [301983]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 378-79W. Since then, Kosovo has made further good progress in implementing Martti Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal (CSP).

Kosovo is putting in place the measures needed for full implementation of the CSP decentralisation provisions which seek to encourage Kosovo Serb engagement in public life and provide sustainable local government for Kosovo. Three Kosovo-Serb majority municipalities were established in time for local elections on 15 November 2009 and two more will hold elections next spring. The elections themselves were a critical marker in Kosovo's emergence as a multi-ethnic democracy, though improvements are still needed for Kosovo fully to meet European standards. On 17 October 2009, Kosovo and Macedonia signed an agreement on demarcation of their border, a welcome contribution to strengthening regional stability. Progress has also been made in judicial and senior public sector appointments.

Libya: Overseas Trade

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates his Department has had discussions on Libya with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessors since 2002. [302178]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no central record of the number of discussions that have taken place between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS) officials regarding Libya. However, officials from a number of departments within the FCO, both in the UK and overseas, are in regular and close contact with their counterparts in DBIS in support of Government objectives, including in respect of Libya.

Libya: Terrorism

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to Lord Laird of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA221, on Libya, what assessment he has made of the likelihood that the campaign by victims and families of IRA terrorism for compensation from the Libyan government will procure compensation. [301453]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The campaign's discussions remain at an early and delicate stage. The campaign's parliamentary group led by Lord Daniel Brennan undertook a successful initial visit to Libya in late October. Campaign engagement with Libya will continue but it would be premature and inappropriate for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to attempt to predict any outcomes at this stage.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to Lord Laird of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA221, on Libya, how many people are working for the FCO-based Libya/Northern Ireland Reconciliation Unit. [301454]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are currently three full-time Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff working in the Libya/Northern Ireland Reconciliation Unit. These consist of a head of unit, unit manager and a support officer. These staff report to the deputy director of the Middle East and North Africa Directorate and are supported by staff at our embassy in Tripoli, the FCO legal advisers and other members of Middle East and North Africa Directorate as necessary.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to Lord Laird of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA221, on Libya, (1) what assessment his Department has made of progress in the campaign by victims and families of IRA terrorism for compensation from the Libyan government since 8 September; [301455]

(2) what progress the Libya/Northern Ireland Reconciliation Unit based in his Department has made since 8 September in supporting the campaign by victims and families of IRA terrorism for compensation from the Libyan government. [301456]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Libya/Northern Ireland Reconciliation Unit, the campaign's parliamentary group secured and undertook a short visit to Libya in October 2009. They remain engaged with Libya in exploring mutually agreeable ways of bringing this issue to a conclusion. The FCO Unit will continue to support them in any way it properly can.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Bury, will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Wycombe of 18 August 2009 on Shabbir Ahmed Shah. [302150]

Chris Bryant: We did not receive the original letter, but have now had a copy forwarded by the hon. Member's office. We will reply to it as quickly as possible.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letters of 25 August and 25 October 2009 from the hon. Member for Oxford West and Abingdon, on his constituent Mr. Heckmet Izhak. [302674]

Chris Bryant: We did not receive the original letters, but have now had copies forwarded by the hon. Member's office. We will reply to them as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letters of 26 June and 21 September 2009 from the Chalfonts Branch of the United Nations Association on *(a)* Aung San Suu Kyi and *(b)* the war in Afghanistan. [303012]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We did not receive the original letters dated 26 June and 21 September 2009. The hon. Member's office are obtaining copies of these letters to forward on to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We will reply to these letters once we have received them.

Middle East

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* levels of unemployment, *(b)* changes in the level of GDP growth, *(c)* export volumes and *(d)* crime rates on the west bank. [301835]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The International Monetary Fund has predicted that gross domestic product per capita in the west bank will decline in 2009, despite an initial projection of 7 per cent. growth, unless restrictions on movement and access are further relaxed.

There are signs that unemployment has been falling slightly in the west bank this year. It fell from 19.5 per cent. in March to 15.9 per cent. in June. However, over the last three years unemployment has fallen over the summer months due to the nature of seasonal employment. It is therefore difficult to assess whether this decline is a reflection of a more sustained reduction in the level of unemployment, or a seasonal phenomenon. We shall continue to monitor data for the autumn and winter months.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that exports may have increased marginally as a result of the decision to increase the commercial opening hours of the Allenby crossing into Jordan. However, Israel has yet to take other significant measures to facilitate exports through Jordan and into Israel. We continue to call on her to do so.

There is also anecdotal evidence to suggest that crime rates in areas under Palestinian Authority (PA) control have declined as a result of a greater Palestinian police presence and a crackdown on crimes such as car theft. However, the PA has not been able to operate in 60 per cent. of the west bank—in Area C—and so its ability to have an impact on crime remains impeded.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the level of threat to Israel of attacks from the west bank. [301837]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been notable improvements in the security situation in the west bank over the past year. However, the situation remains fragile and could deteriorate quickly. We recognise the key role the Palestinian Authorities Security Forces have played in maintaining security and containing violent extremists in many areas of the west bank. However, we have been concerned in recent weeks by increased tensions in east Jerusalem and the old city.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the UK has not been able to meet the commitment made by the Prime Minister on 19 January 2009 to provide naval resources to monitor and stop arms traffic and arms entering Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [301979]

David Miliband: The actual allocation of naval assets is considered in line with the relevant international political and legal considerations and availability of resources. So far the conditions have not been met for deployment.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Prime Minister's statement of 19 January 2009, what steps the UK has taken to *(a)* deal with unexploded bombs in Gaza and *(b)* provide monitoring support at crossings into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [301980]

David Miliband: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the clearance of Unexploded Ordnance. Mines Advisory Group has cleared unexploded ordnance (UXO) from UN Relief and Works Agency schools, allowing 220,000 children to return to school. DFID has also provided £445,446 to enable the UN Mines Action Service to coordinate UXO assessment and clearance throughout Gaza, deploy Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams to clear sites and remove UXO contamination, and train 500 people involved in rubble removal to identify and manage UXO.

Although clearance operations are now underway, an estimated 400,000 tonnes of rubble mixed with toxic materials and unexploded ordnance still need to be removed before reconstruction can begin.

The UK fully supports the work of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Rafah. It is critical that the mission remains ready to reactivate its work as soon as the Israeli authorities allow the crossing to open.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the proportion of homes damaged or destroyed during the December 2008 conflict in Gaza which have been rebuilt since the end of the conflict. [301981]

David Miliband: Approximately 6,400 homes and 114 schools were destroyed or badly damaged during the 2008 conflict. Only limited reconstruction has taken place. The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has sufficient plastic sheets and tarpaulins to provide temporary cover for broken windows. Using cash handouts from UNRWA and the UN Development Programme, owners of around 50,000 lightly damaged homes are making repairs. UNRWA has been able to rebuild 180 fully destroyed homes (out of 3,000 requiring major repairs) using materials already available in Gaza.

The Government remain extremely concerned about the very grave humanitarian situation in Gaza, particularly with the onset of the autumn rains and colder winter weather. Many people in Gaza have not been able to rebuild their homes since the conflict ended in January 2009. We continue to urge the Israeli Government to open the crossings into Gaza not only for humanitarian supplies, but also for reconstruction materials, commercial trade and people.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the conformity of Middle East peace proposals with the principles of the Oslo Accords. [302198]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Oslo Accords are a fundamental building block towards achieving a Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security. The Government remain fully committed to establishing such a viable Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with limited land-swaps of equal quality. We believe that negotiations between the parties remain the best route to achieving this goal.

Morocco: Deportation

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the deportation from Morocco of Aminatou Haidar and *(b)* the offence for which she has been deported; and if he will make a statement. [301732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are aware of the case of Aminatou Haidar. According to media reports, Ms Haidar has claimed that the Moroccan authorities took her passport away from her on arrival in Layounne from Lanzarote. The Moroccan authorities have told us that Ms Haidar refused to state her nationality as Moroccan on arrival and that she voluntarily surrendered her passport. We understand the Spanish and Moroccan authorities are now working to try and resolve the issue and, between them, have offered Ms Haidar either a new Moroccan passport or refugee status in Spain, both of which we understand she has refused.

Somalia: Fisheries

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 922W, on Somalia: fisheries, if he will propose *(a)* EU and *(b)* international action to assess the scale and source of illegal fishing in Somali waters. [301967]

David Miliband: The international community, including the UK, is keen to ensure that illegal fishing does not occur in Somali territorial waters, and to this end is seeking to help Somalia regularise its maritime claims and laws relating to maritime security. This would be the essential first step towards establishing what fishing activity could be regarded as illegal, as well as towards credible and effective fisheries licensing and enforcement.

We recognise the concerns of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and the Somali population about illegal fishing. The international community, including the EU, is engaging with the TFG on this issue both on the UN Security Council and in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of an attack on the south Sudanese Minister Dr Samson Kwaje; what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Southern Sudan; and whether he has had recent discussions with President Salva Kiir of southern Sudan on the security situation in that area. [301724]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 669W.

We understand that Minister Samson Kwaje was shot and injured while promoting voter registration in Western Equatoria State. We understand that he sought hospital treatment and is recovering.

We are concerned at such incidents of violence and urge all involved to ensure that voter registration, and other preparations for the elections in April 2010, are conducted in a peaceful manner.

We are very concerned by the continuing insecurity in South Sudan as a result of tribal violence and activity by the Lord's Resistance Army.

We have not had any recent discussions about this with President Kiir, however, EU High Representative, Javier Solana, met President Kiir in Brussels last week and discussed these issues with him. My ministerial colleagues, as well as senior officials, have raised security issues recently with the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan.

Surveillance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many covert human intelligence sources *(a)* the Secret Intelligence Service and *(b)* GCHQ have recruited in each year since 2000. [303144]

Chris Bryant: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

Western Sahara: Land Mines

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the use by Morocco of antipersonnel mines in those areas of Western Sahara under its occupation; and if he will make a statement. [301734]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have not received any reports on the use of antipersonnel mines by Morocco in the territory of Western Sahara. In his report of 13 April 2009, the UN Secretary-General did not report any activity that indicated the laying down of antipersonnel mines in Western Sahara.

The UN Secretary-General did however report on the efforts of the Royal Moroccan army to destroy mines, unexploded ordinance and expired ammunition.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 931W, on Afghanistan: UK Trade and Investment, if he will provide *(a)* a breakdown of the £30 million his Department has contributed to the Harakat investment and *(b)* a statement of the aims and objectives of the financial contribution. [301970]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £30 million over seven years (2008-15) to Harakat (Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility). Harakat is managed by an independent board, on which DFID is represented, which decides how funds are allocated and spent. To date, £3.5 million has been spent on a number of projects which include: the modernisation of the land registry system; streamlining of business licensing; and the establishment of the Afghanistan training Institute for Banking and Finance.

Harakat's aim is to boost growth and investment, and contribute to employment creation in Afghanistan. Harakat has eight objectives which can be found on their website at:

http://www.harakat.af/index.php?page=en_About+Us

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department plan to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen; how many will be travelling by air; and at what cost to the public purse. [302380]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Plans for travel to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen are not yet finalised. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the civil service code.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301857]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's website received *(a)* 5,950,218 page views and *(b)* 1,173,112 unique visitors in 2008-09.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301923]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has two civil servant scientific advisers not working in a scientific post, and a further five research-active scientists on secondment from UK universities. In addition, DFID also has a rich vein of civil servant professional advisers with a scientific background who are not employed by DFID as scientists.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidance his Department has issued to his Department's country offices on incorporating *(a)* sexual and reproductive health and rights, *(b)* family planning and *(c)* abortion services into country strategy papers. [301051]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including improved access to family planning and safe abortion services. We are working internationally and through our country offices to advance progress on SRHR. This is central to achieving the millennium development goals including maternal health, reducing child mortality, AIDS response and women's empowerment.

DFID has policy papers that guide our approach to improving SRHR including the Maternal Health Strategy, Position Paper on SRHR and Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spreading of HIV in the developing world. In addition, DFID recently issued an updated policy paper on safe and unsafe abortion which clearly demonstrates DFID's commitment to preventing unsafe abortion and improving access to safe abortion. All policy papers are available on DFID's website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Regional and country programmes reflect DFID's priorities in the areas of SRHR as appropriate to the country context. Where it is difficult for country offices to work directly on an issue, e.g. safe abortion where the national legal framework does not support this, DFID considers support through regional programming. This is why DFID has committed £6.5 million over five years to support regional work to increase access to safe abortion in sub-Saharan Africa.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that family planning and safe abortion services are included in essential health packages of countries to which his Department provides assistance; [301052]

(2) which Country Strategy Papers prepared by his Department refer to *(a)* sexual and reproductive health and rights, *(b)* family planning and *(c)* abortion. [301053]

Mr. Michael Foster: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), including family planning and safe abortion services, are key to the provision of essential health care. The Department for International Development (DFID) works through a number of formal and informal processes to ensure that these essential health outcomes are addressed both in policy and implementation. Examples of DFID's work include:

> Direct contributions to the health budgets of our partner countries as well as sector-wide programmes. Improving access to family planning is a key part of policy dialogue and bilateral programme support in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
>
> Supporting action to improve access to safe abortion (as outlined in our recent policy paper on safe and unsafe abortion) through different mechanisms depending on the legal framework and political sensitivity in country.
>
> Supporting regional and multilateral programmes to improve access to safe abortion and other services in Africa such as UNFPA's Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security to which with DFID has committed £100 million over a five year period.

All DFID country programmes which spend more than £20 million per year are required to produce and publish country plans. These are available via the DFID website. Of the 15 reports currently available 12 refer to SRHR or a key element of SRHR (maternal health, family planning or HIV prevention) and the remaining three make reference to efforts to improve basic health care services.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which his Department is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302173]

Mr. Michael Foster: The estates and logistics manager in each of the Department for International Development's (DFID) offices where vehicles are provided, or, in the rare instances where staff use their own vehicles, has the responsibility of checking for a valid driving licence and insurance certificate. In addition, the travel claims section of the finance department maintains copies of insurance certificates from claimants and verifies that these are still valid prior to payment of all mileage claims.

Each office provides a Transport Handbook which sets out road safety advice such as local rules and customs and parts of town to avoid.

All staff are required to report accidents and near misses both in the office and in the course of their official duties outside the office, in accordance with health and safety legislation. All such reports would be reviewed by the internal health and safety team as appropriate.

Gaza: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the £47 million pledged by the UK for immediate humanitarian assistance, early recovery and reconstruction in Gaza has been disbursed; and what assessment has been made of the effect of this funding on the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [301992]

Mr. Michael Foster: £27 million of the UK's pledge of £47 million has been allocated for immediate humanitarian assistance and early recovery work in Gaza, and £20 million for reconstruction.

The UK has spent £18.3 million of the £27 million pledged for humanitarian assistance and early recovery activities, and we expect to have spent all of this funding by the end of March 2010. However, due to restrictions on the entry of building materials into Gaza, the UK has not yet been able to spend any of the £20 million earmarked for reconstruction. We stand ready to provide support as soon as the situation improves, and continue to press the Israeli Government for improved access to Gaza.

UK support is helping to make a real difference in Gaza. For example, UK funding to Oxfam helped provide clean water to over 63,000 people and improved sanitation for more than 100,000 people. Our funding to the World Food Programme and UN Relief and Works Agency helps provide food to more than 900,000 people.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on efforts to repair the sewage and water treatment plant in Gaza. [301993]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are a number of sewage treatment, wastewater re-use and seawater desalination projects in Gaza aimed at addressing the ongoing water and sanitation crisis. The UN has highlighted five key projects which are at various stages of planning and implementation: construction of the North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment plant, upgrading of the Sheikh Ajleen sewage treatment plant in Gaza City, construction of wastewater treatment plants in Rafah and Khan Younis and the installation of three desalination plants (in Rafah, Khan Younis and Al Bureij refugee camp).

Israeli authorities have expressed support for these projects and allowed some of the necessary materials to enter Gaza. However, implementation has been slowed due to prolonged delays in the clearance of these imports and other difficulties in the coordination process with the authorities.

Gaza: Utilities

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to *(a)* clean water and *(b)* electricity in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [301991]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UN estimates the number of people not connected to the water network in Gaza is now only 10,000 out of a population of 1.5 million. But frequent power failures also mean that access to water from the network is limited to six-eight hours per day for several days as pumps in boreholes and in blocks of flats cannot operate. In addition, it is estimated that 90-95 per cent. of the water in the aquifer, from which Gaza draws its water, is contaminated with sewage, nitrates and sea water and does not meet drinking water quality standards.

As the power station does not get enough fuel to run at full capacity, Gaza consistently experiences shortages of mains electricity leading to power cuts of four-five hours a day, four days a week for 90 per cent. of the population. In October the power station only received 65 per cent. of the 3.5 million litres of fuel needed to operate at its maximum capacity of 80 megawatts.

UN Population Fund

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the United Nations Population Fund performance of the Global Programme in its use of the £100 million contributed to it by his Department. [301054]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to provide up to £100 million over five years to support the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS), subject to performance. UNFPA's 2008 report did not provide adequate evidence of progress. As a result, we have held back funding scheduled for 2009. The next instalment of funding will only be released when a framework to improve reporting is in place. This will be used by all donors to GPRHCS.

JUSTICE

C-NOMIS Database Project

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Government to respond to the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the C-NOMIS database project, published on 2 November 2009. [300960]

Maria Eagle: The Government response to the Public Accounts Committee report is expected to be published on 28 January 2010.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve the information and technology systems available to the probation service given that the C-NOMIS database will no longer be available to them. [300961]

Maria Eagle: The C-NOMIS project was replaced by the National Offender Management Information Systems programme. The programme comprises five IT-enabled business change projects, three of which will directly benefit probation.

Probation case management system will replace a variety of probation systems with a centralised version based on a redevelopment of the Delius system;

A data sharing system will be developed and implemented, enabling staff in both organisations to share core information required to support offender management;

The existing offender assessment system used by probation will be replaced by an improved, centralised system.

Criminal Injury Compensation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on administering criminal injury compensation in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [301560]

Claire Ward: Government-funded criminal injuries compensation is administered by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). In 2008-09, CICA's employment costs were £12,075,000 and administration costs were £9,353,000.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much criminal injury compensation was paid by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* convicted criminals in the latest period for which figures are available. [301561]

Claire Ward: In 2008-09, £265.9 million was paid under the Criminal Injury Compensation Scheme by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. This figure includes interim awards: i.e. awards paid to applicants pending final settlement of their applications.

In 2008-09, HM Courts Service collected £42.3 million from offenders in court order compensation.

Departmental Data Protection

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what security requirements are made by his Department in respect of *(a)* people employed to provide audio transcription services to his Department from home, *(b)* the premises in which work to provide such services is carried out and *(c)* arrangements for the transfer of data between such premises and his Department. [302693]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has a contract for the provision of transcription services in relation to court hearings. Security controls comply with the Government's Security Policy Framework, which includes standards for information security.

The Crown Court Reporting Contract covers the transcription service for the criminal courts. Transcriptions for these courts are carried out within the court buildings where the data are stored or within the contractor's premises and never at employees' homes.

The Tape Transcription Panel Contract covers the transcription service for the civil and family courts. Many of the contractors on this panel are small-medium enterprises and transcription work may be carried out at their employees' homes.

Contractors engaged on transcription work are subject to personnel checks including identity, right to work, criminal record and employment history. Some will additionally be subject to a national security check depending on where they work.

Suppliers are required to store all data in their possession, relating to the tape transcription contract, in a safe and secure environment. Prior to the award of the current contract, all prospective suppliers' establishments were visited and their equipment and storage facilities inspected for compliance.

Data are transferred between courts and the contractor by the following methods: personal collection, DX/Secure DX, registered post, special delivery, courier.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301492]

Mr. Straw: No reports of allegations of victimisation have been made to the Ministry's nominated officers, who listen to concerns raised under our whistleblowing procedure.

Allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing not involving the nominated officers would be made through staff grievance procedures. Additionally, the National Offender Management Service also has a reporting wrongdoing hotline where staff may raise concerns, anonymously if they wish. The procedures do not centrally record victimisation resulting from whistleblowing as a separate category. In order to provide the information requested, we would need to contact each of our establishments and HR offices, ask them to interrogate their local records and then submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301164]

Mr. Straw: I met with the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) and constituent during the week commencing 9 November 2009 to discuss libel tourism. I also met the Attorney Generals of the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Departmental Rail Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301203]

Mr. Straw: Friday 20 November 2009.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301537]

Mr. Wills: Apart from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) business areas, the Ministry does not undertake online recruitment. Since May 2009, NOMS has eliminated the use of paper applications and all recruitment has been online. For individuals who do not have access to the internet at home the

NOMS contact centre encourages applicants to use the range of internet points available at internet cafes, job centres and public libraries.

The recruitment product used by NOMS complies with the Royal National Institute for Blind People conformity standard of AA (a measure of website accessibility). This means that the website has passed the test and is compliant with industry wide guidelines, allowing us to demonstrate for example, that disabled users have verified that the website provides an effective level of service to all users.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mass of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [301566]

Mr. Wills: The recycling figures for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are not separated out and an individual figure for the mass of paper recycled is not available. This answer gives the total recycling figure for the Ministry of Justice for 2007-08.

The MoJ was created in May 2007. Government have a target to increase recycling to 40 per cent. of total waste by 2010. Cutting waste arising at source means we have less material to recycle and MoJ engages with suppliers to reduce or remove packaging. The figures for reducing waste arising for 2007-08 can be found on the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=852

in the seventh annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) assessment.

The figures for the recycling of waste arising for 2007-08 can be found on the SDC website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=853

This is the latest period for which figures are available. Based on ongoing improvement in performance and planned initiatives MoJ expects to achieve the 2010 recycling target.

The assessment of 2008-09 performance will be published by the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) on 18 December 2009 to the OGC website.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will asses whether additional *(a)* time and *(b)* cost would be incurred by police forces in (i) England and (ii) Wales in the event of the introduction of a graduated driver licensing system. [302513]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

There are no current plans to introduce graduated licensing and therefore the assessments have not been made.

Freedom of Information: Government Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many information notices the Information Commissioner has issued to each Department in each year since 2005 in circumstances in which he considers there has been undue delay by that Department in providing the information requested.[1] [302841]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing the Freedom of Information Act (the "Act").

Section 51 of the Act provides that the Commissioner may serve an Information Notice either in relation to a complaint or to assess compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Up to November 2009 the ICO has issued 91 formal information notices to Public Authorities, 34 of which have been to Government Departments. They are set out in the following table.

Department	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Department of Transport	—	—	1	—	—	1
Department of Health	1	1	1	2	1	6
House of Commons	—	6	—	—	—	6
Scotland Office	—	—	—	1	—	1
The Treasury Solicitors Department	—	1	—	—	—	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	—	1	—	—	—	1
Department for Culture Media and Sport	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cabinet Office	—	—	2	2	—	4
Home Office	—	—	1	1	4	6
Department for Constitutional Affairs	—	1	—	—	—	1
HM Treasury	—	1	—	—	—	1
The Department of Trade and Industry/Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	—	—	—	3	—	3
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	—	—	—	1	—	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grand Total	1	12	5	11	5	34

HM Courts Service: Manpower

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) by what proportion HM Courts Service plans to reduce its numbers of front-line staff in 2010; and if he will make a statement; [300282]

(2) for what reasons HM Courts Service has proposed a reduction in the number of its staff in courts. [300283]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has recently agreed its 2010-11 budget with HMCS as part of the established concordat process.

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 5MC.]*

Detailed business and operational planning for 2010-11 is currently under way but specific workforce plans are not yet available. Therefore it is not possible to state what change in staff numbers if any may be necessary.

HMCS' ongoing priority is to maintain support delivery of high quality front-line services for victims, witnesses and all court users.

Hunting Act 2004: Prosecutions

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 at courts in Yorkshire in each year since the Act entered into force. [301638]

Claire Ward: There have been no prosecutions or convictions reported to the Ministry of Justice in the North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire police force areas for offences under the 2004 Hunting Act from 2005 (the Act came into force on 18 February 2005) to 2007 (latest available).

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Legal Aid

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget is for legal aid in respect of the asylum system in 2009-10. [301397]

Bridget Prentice: There is not a separate budget for legal aid in respect of asylum matters. Asylum cases are funded from the overall legal aid budget, which forms part of the overall Ministry of Justice departmental expenditure limit.

The latest forecast indicates that the cost of asylum matters in 2009-10 will be about £54 million. The figures above do not include judicial reviews concerning asylum as these cannot be disaggregated from the overall immigration and asylum category.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether officials employed by or seconded to the head office of the National Offender Management Service have authority to advise or instruct probation staff to alter supervision plans in individual cases; [300232]

(2) in what circumstances staff employed by or seconded to the head office of the National Offender Management Service contact probation staff in relation to the supervision of individual cases; [300233]

(3) whether intelligence received about individual offenders by senior managers in probation areas is regularly passed on to supervisors. [300234]

Maria Eagle: Officials in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), including those seconded from probation areas or trusts, provide policy instructions and practice guidance to advise probation staff how to complete sentence plans. They represent the Secretary of State at Parole Board oral hearings and consider whether risk management plans for recalled offenders provide adequate safeguards in protecting the public. They consider reports submitted by probation areas and trusts in respect of offenders recalled on post release licence and those offenders being considered for parole. They may liaise with areas/trusts about more unusual cases presenting serious risks to the public, for example a terrorist offender.

In fulfilling these roles, they do not have the authority to instruct probation staff to alter sentence plans except where a breach of rules about disclosure of information (for example about a victim) would otherwise occur. However, NOMS may offer advice in specific cases. They may also review the quality of sentence plans, and other aspects of practice, when an individual is responsible for committing a serious further offence.

It is not possible to specify all the circumstances in which staff from NOMS might contact probation staff about the supervision of individual cases. The following examples cover the main situations where such contact might occur:

when an offender is considered to present a particularly serious risk to the community, for example a terrorist offender or one registered as a critical public protection case;

when a practitioner seeks advice from an official at the Ministry of Justice about the management of an offender; or

when an offender makes a complaint to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, their Member of Parliament or NOMS about an aspect of the service he or she has received.

The following examples cover situations where routine reports are prepared by probation staff and considered by staff in NOMS. On some occasions they might result in discussion between the two about the supervision of a case:

when a probation area is seeking the recall to custody of an offender released on licence;

when the Parole Board is considering a prisoner's re-release following recall; or

when a prisoner is being considered for release on parole; or

when an offender has committed a serious further offence while under supervision and the management of the case is subject to review.

Senior managers might receive intelligence about individual offenders in a number of situations. Examples of this include: multi agency public protection arrangements; multi agency arrangements for managing prolific and other priority offenders; and via the Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR) database, which is shared with the police. It would usually be good practice for any intelligence they might acquire to be passed on to the person managing the case. There are no standard procedures for monitoring this exchange of intelligence between senior managers and supervisors and therefore it is not possible to confirm the frequency of occurrence without an unreasonable amount of time to gather the information.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Finance

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2009, *Official Report,* columns 26-7WS, on the Probation Service, what estimate he has made of the number of trainee probation officers who are expected to graduate in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 without an offer of a full-time permanent job as a probation officer. [300849]

Maria Eagle: Currently 285 trainee probation officers (TPOs), who graduated in October 2009, do not have a permanent probation officer contract. 126 TPOs have secured a temporary contract as a probation officer, and a further 62 are employed as probation services officers (34 in permanent roles and 28 employed temporarily). 305 TPOs are expected to graduate in 2010, but it is too early to predict how many will be offered permanent probation officer contracts.

The additional £26 million funding announced for Probation Board/Trust budgets in 2010-11 is specifically targeted on front line delivery. It will enable probation employers to revisit their workforce planning assumptions and potentially offer permanent probation officer contracts to TPO graduates from both 2009 and 2010.

Directors of offender management will negotiate specific service level agreements/contracts with boards/trusts. At this time it is not possible to provide the exact number of probation officer jobs available as the allocation for each probation area and trust will be agreed with the relevant director of offender management by the end of December.

Parole: Life Imprisonment

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what rules and procedures apply to the consideration for parole of prisoners who have received *(a)* a life and *(b)* an indeterminate sentence; and what procedures apply in respect of each such sentence. [302849]

Bridget Prentice: All life sentence and indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) prisoners are eligible to have their case for release on parole considered once they have served the minimum period as set down by the court. The process for considering both life sentence and IPP prisoners' parole applications is broadly the same. The independent Parole Board is responsible for determining whether it is safe to release a life sentence or IPP prisoner back into the community.

Under Section 32(6) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and Section 239(6) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the Secretary of State for Justice has powers to set Directions to the Parole Board to guide them in their considerations. These Directions are available from the Library of the House or at:

http://www.paroleboard.gov.uk

The rules which govern the Parole Board's procedures in life sentence and IPP cases are set out in the Parole Board Rules 2004, which were amended in 2009. These rules are available also from the Library of the House or at:

http://www.paroleboard.gov.uk

Since 1 April 2009 all indeterminate sentenced prisoners' parole cases have been carried out in accordance with the generic parole process (GPP). The GPP introduced a single timetable and process for all indeterminate sentenced prisoners. The procedures, responsibilities and timescales for this process are managed under Prison Service Order 6010. This Prison Service Order is available from the Library of the House or at:

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Prison Officers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have *(a)* been accused of, *(b)* been dismissed for, *(c)* been charged for, *(d)* been convicted of and *(e)* commenced a custodial sentence for bringing drugs into a prison in the last three years. [301381]

Maria Eagle: In the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), there is no formal requirement to notify headquarters whenever a member of staff is accused of misconduct. Instead, the matter would be reported at a local level. Details of the number of prison officers accused of bringing drugs into a prison in the last three years could be obtained only by consulting all prisons across England and Wales. This would incur disproportionate cost.

According to centrally held records in NOMS, three prison officers have been dismissed under the internal disciplinary procedures specifically for bringing drugs into a prison since January 2007 (two during 2007 and one during 2008).

Information about the numbers of staff charged under internal disciplinary proceedings is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by consulting all prisons across England and Wales. Information about staff who have been charged by the police with smuggling drugs could only be provided at disproportionate cost by gathering information held by all England and Wales police forces.

While information is held centrally by NOMS about the numbers of staff who have been dismissed following receipt of a police caution or criminal conviction, details of the offence and the conviction are not recorded centrally in each case. To obtain this information it would be necessary to contact each prison in England and Wales.

Information on the number of staff who have been given a custodial sentence for bringing drugs into a prison in the last three years is not collated and held centrally. To obtain this information it would be necessary to contact each prison in England and Wales.

Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals were serving a custodial sentence at the latest date for which figures are available; and for what categories of offences such prisoners were sentenced. [301386]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of sentenced foreign national prisoners (FNPs) in England and Wales by offence category at the end of June 2009.

Offence category	*Prisoners*
Violence against the person	1,640
Sexual offences	892
Robbery	611
Burglary	300
Theft and handling	322
Fraud and forgery	928
Drug offences	2,138

Offence category	*Prisoners*
Motoring offences	131
Other offences	515
Offence not recorded	25
Total	7,502

The total number of FNPs (including those not under sentence) for the same date was 11,350.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what drug testing requirements apply to prison officers. [301383]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service does not have a national policy in place relating to drug testing arrangements for members of staff.

However, all staff are expected to report fit for duty at all times and staff who take prohibited drugs while at work or on duty may be subject to formal disciplinary action which may result in their dismissal from service. If there was cause to believe that a member of staff was under the influence of drugs while on duty, the matter may be referred to the police.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what penalties may be imposed upon a prisoner who tests positive for drugs. [301385]

Maria Eagle: A prisoner who undergoes a mandatory drug test which results in a positive indication that he or she has taken a controlled drug may be charged with a disciplinary offence under the Prison or Young Offender Institution Rules. If the charge is proved the Governor (or Controller in a contracted prison) may impose any of the punishments set out in the Rules, ranging from a caution, forfeiture of privileges, stoppage of earnings, or up to 21 days cellular confinement.

In more serious cases, such as those involving Class A drugs, Governors can refer the charge to an independent adjudicator (District Judge), who may impose any of the punishments available to the Governor, and, in the case of a determinate sentence prisoner, up to 42 additional days to be served in custody. The guidelines for independent adjudicators, issued by the Senior District Judge, suggest 32 added days as a starting point for Class A drugs, or 12 added days for other drugs.

Whether a charge is referred to the independent adjudicator, and the actual punishment imposed, will depend on the individual circumstances of the case, and the local punishment guidelines set by the Governor in each prison. These punishments are equally applicable to prisoners who refuse to undergo a mandatory drug test.

Prisoners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were detained in open prisons on 30 October 2009. [301395]

Claire Ward: The most recent data available relate to June 2009.

At the end of June 2009 there were 201 foreign national prisoners (FNPs), detained in open prisons in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals of each nationality were held in prison for each offence on 30 October 2009. [301396]

Claire Ward: The most recent data available relate to June 2009.

Around 160 nationalities are represented in the prison population. For ease of reference, the top 10 nationalities (accounting for 49 per cent. of the sentenced population) are shown with the remaining 51 per cent. grouped together.

	China	*India*	*Irish Republic*	*Jamaica*	*Lithuania*	*Nigeria*	*Pakistan*	*Poland*	*Somali*	*Vietnam*	*Top 10*	*Remainder*
Violence against the person	24	70	153	236	60	43	85	90	68	15	844	796
Sexual offences	9	33	79	84	13	33	62	32	41	3	389	504
Robbery	8	6	83	63	8	19	11	29	64	0	291	320
Burglary	2	5	88	20	15	3	3	30	8	3	177	123
Theft and handling	4	5	20	13	26	9	6	27	6	4	120	202
Fraud and forgery	44	62	14	34	13	142	48	6	22	4	389	539
Drug offences	106	13	41	310	15	281	55	34	45	246	1,146	992
Motoring offences	2	7	6	6	18	6	6	16	2	0	68	63

	China	*India*	*Irish Republic*	*Jamaica*	*Lithuania*	*Nigeria*	*Pakistan*	*Poland*	*Somali*	*Vietnam*	*Top 10*	*Remainder*
Other offences	30	19	37	23	24	15	23	33	31	5	239	276
Offence not recorded	0	1	3	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	12	13

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Transfers

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what progress he has made in establishing the extent of the practice of transferring prisoners prior to official inspections across the prison estate in England and Wales; [300948]

(2) what progress he has made in determining the motivation behind the recent transfer of prisoners prior to inspection reports; and what steps his Department is taking to prevent this happening in future. [300949]

Mr. Straw: The review of the extent of the practice of transferring prisoners from one prison to another prior to inspection was announced in my statement to the House on 20 October 2009. The director of Analytical Services has started her investigations which will cover the extent of the practice of transferring prisoners prior to inspection.

In that statement I made clear that the investigation into the temporary transfers of prisoners between Pentonville and Wandsworth prisons had found that they had been arranged as deliberate attempts to manipulate the outcomes of the inspections.

The director general of NOMS, Phil Wheatley, has written to all governors to reiterate that the temporary transfer of prisoners to manipulate inspection outcomes is unacceptable. I issued a public statement reflecting Mr. Wheatley's message.

I will update the House in February 2010 on the outcome of the review.

Prisoners: Death

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman and Her Majesty's Coroner to complete their investigations into the self-inflicted death of the prisoner transferred to HM Prison Pentonville, following a court appearance, in the week before an inspection, and held there during the inspection before being returned to HM Prison Wandsworth. [301568]

Maria Eagle: The prisons and probation ombudsman (PPO) and the coroner will both undertake independent investigations into the self-inflicted death of the prisoner at HMP Wandsworth. The timings for completion of those investigations are a matter for the PPO and coroner respectively.

Prisons: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the forecast percentage change to their annual budget is for each prison in England for which he has responsibility for financial years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13 compared to their budget for the previous financial year. [300225]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service is undertaking a budget review process with its regions to determine the budget for prisons in 2010-11. In planning for 2010-11 prisons are using indicative guidelines of a 5 per cent. budget reduction but their final budgets will not be determined until the review process is complete, later this year.

Budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are outside the current spending review period and consequently have not yet been determined.

Remand In Custody: Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in the London Borough of Croydon who were remanded in custody in each year between 1997 and 2008 were not convicted of the offences in respect of which they were remanded in custody; and how many days in total such people spent on remand in each such year. [301592]

Claire Ward: Information collected centrally by my Department on the number of persons remanded in custody is not available below Criminal Justice System area level.

Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria he uses to determine the effectiveness of youth offending teams. [301267]

Maria Eagle: There are two complementary processes for determining the effectiveness of youth offending teams (YOTs). The HMI probation inspection regime looks in depth at practice around the key areas of public protection, safe guarding and risk of harm. The inspection process reports its findings in terms of the level of improvement that is required against each of the core areas. The descriptors used are as follows:

Drastic improvement required;

Substantial improvement required;

Moderate improvement required; and

Minimum improvement required.

The Youth Justice Board monitors and assesses YOT Partnership performance through its Youth Justice Performance Framework. This assessment is at a strategic level and looks at the key outcomes of: reducing reoffending;

first time entrants; engagement in education, training and employment; access to suitable accommodation; public and victim confidence and reducing numbers in custody (with race disproportionality also addressed in each of these areas). The descriptors used are outstanding, good, satisfactory or poor. The combined results are used to inform the Youth Justice Board's overall judgment of the YOT Partnership, both in terms of performance and prospects for improvement.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of youth reoffending was in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [301318]

Claire Ward: The published national statistics on adult and juvenile reoffending are not broken down by area. However, as part of the National Indicator Set, NI19: Juvenile Reoffending provide these data at the local level. This measure is different from the published National Statistics on reoffending for England and Wales.

Juvenile reoffending data are available for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2008. For 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 data are based on a cohort of offenders that received a pre-court disposal (reprimand or final warning) or a first-tier or community penalty or were released from custody between October and December of that year. Data on this previous measure for the 2002-05 cohorts were reported in early 2004-07 respectively. After 2007 the basis of the measure changed to offenders that received a pre-court disposal (reprimand or final warning) or a first-tier or community penalty or were released from custody between January and March. Data on this new basis are available for the 2005 and 2008 cohorts—the former submitted retrospectively in September 2008, and the latter returned in July 2009.

The local juvenile reoffending measure differs from the published national Statistics on juvenile reoffending. The primary difference is that the data source is administrative data held by youth offending teams, whereas the National Statistics are produced using the police national computer. There are therefore differences in the offences which count towards reoffending. In addition to this, local juvenile reoffending data are based on a one year follow up period with a further three months allowed for any cautions or convictions to occur, whereas the National Statistics allow a six month period for cautions or convictions.

These data are available broken down by youth offender team area. The areas used are not coterminous with local authorities in all cases. The details are included in the tables, which I will place in the Libraries.

Youth Custody

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of placing a young person in *(a)* a secure children's home, *(b)* a secure training centre and *(c)* a young offender's institute was in each year since 1997. [302574]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is currently being collated and I hope to be in a position to write to the hon. Member before the end of the year to provide the average costs in each year since 2000 when the Youth Justice Board was established.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of civil servants earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300813]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, how many and what proportion of civil servants are paid more than £50,000 per annum. (300813).

The Office for National Statistics collects the annual salaries of civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A Number of individual civil servants paid more than £50,000 per annum[1, 2] 31 March 2008

	Greater than £50,000	Proportion to total[3] (percentage)[1]
Number of civil servants	19,490	3.8

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Based on actual annual gross salaries.
[3] At 31 March 2008 there were 515,660 permanent civil servants. As part of the 2008 data collection 3,620 salaries were not recorded by government departments for individual civil servants. These civil servants have been excluded from the proportion to total estimate.
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES)

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was paid in salary and wage costs for civil servants in the last 12 months; and what estimate she has made of the proportion of that figure which was paid to civil servants who earn more than £50,000 per annum. [300847]

Tessa Jowell: Information on salary and wage costs are published annually in individual departmental resource accounts.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants of her Department plan to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. [302363]

Tessa Jowell: One official from my Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Departmental Cost-Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what efficiency savings projects *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement; [300922]

(2) what efficiency savings projects the Prime Minister's Office put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to the Office's savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [300917]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, has a number of value for money saving initiatives in place to deliver against its original target of £35 million in 2010-11 as set at CSR 2007. Those initiatives include activities complementary to the Operational Efficiency Programme including: sourcing of shared services for HR and Finance transaction processing from DWP; leading on development of the Public Sector Flex shared IT service; consolidating the estate by vacating and disposing of non-core leasehold buildings and using core freehold buildings more intensively.

At Budget 2009 the Cabinet Office was tasked with finding a further £10 million of savings bringing the total to £45 million in 2010-11. Business planning for 2010-11 is currently under way and will identify where those further savings might be found. Interim progress against our total value for money savings will next be reported in our Autumn Performance Report 2009 due to be published in December 2009. Full details of progress will next be reported in the Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10 due to be published next summer.

Delivery of our plans will contribute to the £9 billion which will be delivered in the next Spending Period

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by (i) 10 Downing Street and (ii) her Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [301192]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Cabinet Office supports the public sector food procurement initiative.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301190]

Tessa Jowell: With regard to the cost of allocated official cars and drivers by Ministers and officials, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 8[illegible]WS. Since 12 October 2009 the Cabinet Office has reduced the number of cars allocated to Ministers and officials to four.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in her Department was in the last 12 months. [301340]

Tessa Jowell: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by her Department in each of the last three years. [300615]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300636]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has no Executive agencies. Of our NDPBs, nine are small advisory bodies and two are executive advisory bodies and no bonuses or incentives have been paid to any consultant or contractor over the last three years.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of jobs advertised by her Department in the last 12 months were online-only applications; and what provision her Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in her Department who do not have access to the internet. [301544]

Angela E. Smith: There have been no jobs advertised as online-only application. Applicants without access to the internet can request a hard copy job pack.

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many and what percentage of staff of her Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what her Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis; [301339]

(2) how many and what proportion of staff *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Leader of the House's Office work flexibly or part-time; and what each Office's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301340]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office and the Leader of the House's Office are integral parts of the Cabinet Office and follow Cabinet Office policies and practices on flexible working.

Cabinet Office has a range of flexible working options available to staff, including compressed hours, flexi-time, job-sharing, part-time, term-time and home working.

Cabinet Office policy is that all jobs are available on a flexible working basis, including job-sharing, unless there are specific business reasons why requests for flexible working cannot be accommodated.

Arrangements for flexible working are agreed within management units and information is not held centrally.

The Department does not have any Executive agencies.

Regarding the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), all advisory NDPBs are staffed by secretariat from the Cabinet Office, and follow the Cabinet Office's flexible working policy; the Executive NDPB, Commission for the Compact, has a similar approach to Cabinet Office policy on flexible working.

Capacitybuilders, the Department's other Executive NDPB, operates a flexi-time policy and offers flexible working arrangements in line with current legislation.

Employment: Vale of Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were in employment in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each of the last 12 years. [300664]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were in employment in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each of the last 12 years (300664).

The answer to this question is contained within the answer to your recent question, *Official Report*, 12 November 2009, volume 499, column 751.

Immigration

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the UK's migration policy on migrants from Romania and Bulgaria; and if she will make a statement. [301317]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

I made a statement on 18 December 2008 that the restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals' access to the UK's labour market would continue beyond 1 January 2009, and on 3 November 2009 that those restrictions would continue until the end of 2011. The case for the continuation of those restrictions was considered fully by the Migration Advisory Committee in its report published on 18 December 2008 and its recommendations have been taken into account in the Government's decision to extend the restrictions.

Legislation: Public Consultation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the application of Cabinet Office guidelines by the Department of Health in respect of its consultation on the Draft Pharmacy Order 2009. [301820]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The consultation, "Creating a new professional regulator for pharmacy", was carried out in accordance with the Government code of practice on consultation.

The consultation opened on 8 December 2008 and closed on 9 March 2009—running for 13 weeks rather than 12 to allow for the Christmas holiday period. It was publicised through press releases and consultation events were held in Scotland, Wales, London and Leeds including one specifically for members of the public. The consultation received a great deal of coverage in the pharmacy media. The Department received 195 full responses and a further 54 e-mails and letters on specific issues and a full response was published in June 2009.

Liver Diseases

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have been diagnosed with liver cancer since 2005. [301875]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been diagnosed with liver cancer since 2005. [301875]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table attached provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer in England for the years 2005 to 2007.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer[1], England, 2005 to 2007[2]

	Number
2005	2,654
2006	2,571
2007	2,754

[1] Liver cancer is coded to C22 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Population: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the projected population of each Lancashire constituency in each of the next five years. [301420]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about the estimate of the projected population of each Lancashire constituency in each of the next five years. (301420)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce population projections for parliamentary constituencies and so I am unable to provide population projections for each Lancashire constituency. ONS does however produce population projections for local authorities and for three local authorities the boundaries are coterminous with parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1 shows the projected population projections for Lancashire local authorities mid-2010 to mid-2014.

Table 2 shows the component local authorities for the Lancashire parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1: 2006-based population projections for Lancashire local authorities, mid-2010 to mid-2014

Local authority	*Parliamentary constituency*	*mid-2010*	*mid-2011*	*mid-2012*	*mid-2013*	*mid-2014*
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn (part), Rossendale and Darwen (part)	144,400	145,300	146,200	147,200	148,100
Blackpool	Blackpool North and Fleetwood (part), Blackpool South (part)	145,000	145,700	146,400	147,200	148,000
Burnley	Burnley (whole)	87,700	87,800	87,800	87,900	88,100
Chorley	Chorley (whole)	106,600	107,400	108,200	109,000	109,800
Fylde	Fylde (part)	77,800	78,400	79,000	79,600	80,200
Hyndburn	Hyndburn (part)	83,700	84,100	84,500	85,000	85,400
Lancaster	Blackburn (part), Rossendale and Darwen (part)	151,600	153,800	155,800	157,700	159,600
Pendle	Blackpool North and Fleetwood (part), Blackpool South (part)	91,600	92,100	92,600	93,100	93,600
Preston	Burnley (whole)	134,500	135,200	135,800	136,500	137,100
Ribble Valley	Chorley (whole)	60,800	61,500	62,200	62,900	63,500
Rossendale	Fylde (part)	68,000	68,300	68,700	69,000	69,400
South Ribble	Hyndburn (part)	108,900	109,600	110,300	111,000	111,700
West Lancashire	Lancaster and Wyre (part), Morecambe and Lunesdale (part)	111,100	111,400	111,800	112,200	112,500
Wyre	Pendle (whole)	114,800	115,900	117,000	118,100	119,200
	Fylde (part), Preston (part), Ribble Valley (part)					
	Ribble Valley (part)					
	Hyndburn (part), Rossendale and Darwen (part)					
	Preston (part), Ribble Valley (part), South Ribble (part)					
	South Ribble (part), West Lancashire (part)					
	Blackpool North and Fleetwood (part), Fylde (part), Lancaster and Wyre (part)					

Note:
The figures have been rounded to hundreds.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Look up table for Lancashire local authorities by parliamentary constituency

Parliamentary constituency	*Local authority*
Blackburn	Blackburn with Darwen (part)
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	Blackpool (part), Wyre (part)
Blackpool South	Blackpool (part)
Burnley	Burnley (whole)
Chorley	Chorley (whole)
Fylde	Fylde (whole), Preston (part), Wyre (part)
Hyndburn	Hyndburn (whole), Rossendale (part)
Lancaster and Wyre	Lancaster (part), Wyre (part)
Morecambe and Lunesdale	Lancaster (part)
Pendle	Pendle (whole)
Preston	Preston (part), South Ribble (part)
Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley (whole), Preston (part), South Ribble (part)
Rossendale and Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen (part), Rossendale (part)
South Ribble	South Ribble (part), West Lancashire (part)
West Lancashire	West Lancashire (part)

Post Codes: Databases

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons the postcode database being created by the Office for National Statistics will be destroyed after the Census rather than being made available for reuse, as referred to in recommendation seven of the report of the Power of Information Taskforce; and if she will make a statement. [300277]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for what reasons the postcode database being created by the Office for National Statistics will be destroyed after the Census rather than being made available for reuse, as referred to in Recommendation seven of the report of the Power of Information Taskforce. (300277)

A high quality and complete list of addresses will be integral to the 2011 Census. By listing every household it will help to ensure that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces accurate results for all local authorities in England and Wales.

ONS will not destroy the register after the census, but Licensing and legal issues around ownership of the source address data mean that we are not able to make the address register available for use by other government departments or others. It is these other national sources to which the Power of Information Taskforce report refers.

We will make all new addresses found by ONS through the census address checking process available to the national address list providers (Royal Mail, Ordnance Survey and Local Authorities) to enhance the national lists. However, addresses found during the main census operation will not be shared, as they are deemed 'personal census data' and are confidential under the 1920 Census Act.

We would like to see the census address register (excluding those addresses found during the census field operation) built upon for future use, but maintenance of the list beyond the 2011 Census falls outside the remit and resources of the current project—and ONS as a whole. Steps are being taken, however, to ensure processes are repeatable and ONS would support the wider use of the register if this can be managed.

Return Migration

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment she has made of levels of return migration to each country of origin. [300491]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what recent assessment has been made of levels of return migration, broken down by country specific data where available. (300491)

In 2008, 68,000 immigrants came to the UK who were born in the UK. In the same year 258,000 emigrants left the UK who were not born here. Of these, 203,000 emigrants returned to their country of birth. Table 1 provides country specific data where these estimates are considered robust.

Table 1: Emigrants returning to their country of birth in 2008

Country	*Estimate (thousand)*
EU	107
Of which:	
Poland	50
Rest of the world	96
Of which:	
Australia	18
India	11

Note:
The estimates may not add up due to rounding.

Shares

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many individuals in the UK owned shares in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2009. [300976]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many individuals in the UK owned shares in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2009. (300976)

The information you have requested is not available. The only estimate we have of the number of individuals in Great Britain who own shares is for 2006/07. Estimates before this period are not available and results for 2007/08 will be available on 10 December 2009.

According to a survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics in 2006/07, 12% of people aged 16 or over in Great Britain held shares other than employee shares or share options and 5% held employee shares or share options. Applying these percentages to the mid-2006 population estimates of people aged 16 or over in Great Britain suggests that 5.6 million people held shares other than employee shares or share options and 2.3 million people held employee shares or share options. These figures should not be added together to estimate the total number of people in Great Britain owning shares, as some individuals may own both types of share. The estimates do not include any indirect investment in shares through for example ISAs, unit trusts or pension funds.

Sir David Rowlands

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what procedures were employed to determine whether the appointment of Sir David Rowlands to the GIP Advisory Council in July 2008 was consistent with Business Appointment Rules; and if she will make a statement. [302831]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

The rules for civil servants on the acceptance of outside appointments after leaving Crown service are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Sir David Rowlands' appointment to the GIP Advisory Council complied with the rules. Details of the appointment and the process can be found in the 2008-09 Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments.

Social Enterprise Day: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what events her Department organised to mark Social Enterprise Day in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and how much each such event cost. [300537]

Angela E. Smith: Hundreds of events take place throughout the country each year on Social Enterprise day. The Office of the Third Sector encourages and supports as many as possible through its involvement in the Make Your Mark: Change Lives Partnership, through support for social enterprise strategic partners and through work with other Government Departments. In 2008, OTS organised its own event to celebrate and promote the work of young social entrepreneurs at Admiralty house at a cost of £6,622. In 2009, OTS organised an event with No. 10 to celebrate Social Enterprise day and the work of the third sector at a cost of £5,603.

Third Sector: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much matched funding her Department has provided to the Grassroots Endowment Challenge since its inception. [301617]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) in the Cabinet Office intends to announce the first annual endowment performance data, for the £130 million Grassroots Grants programme, in early December 2009.

This data will relate to the one-year period, from the programme launch in September 2008 to September 2009.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what strategic grant funding her Department awarded to third sector organisations in 2008-09. [302361]

Angela E. Smith: Office of the Third Sector (OTS) operates a strategic funding programme, which provides long-term core funding and financial stability to third sector organisations that operate at a national and regional level. The programme represents long-term partnership working, strategic partners have been integral in developing policy in a number of areas, including supporting the sector through the downturn.

In 2008-09 we provided strategic grants worth £12,206,315 to support 42 third sector organisation strategic partners who can speak with authority and credibility over a very wide range of sector interests. These figures do not include funding for V, who also receives strategic funding but on a separate basis. In 2008-09 they received £5 million, which included marketing costs.

Strategic partners funded in 2008-09

Organisation/partnership	*£*
Action with Communities in Rural England	210,125
Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations	210,125
BMESCP/Voice4Change	262,656
British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres	155,006
CEMVO	262,656
Charities Evaluation Services	154,812
Charity Trustee Networks	94,556
Church Urban Fund	90,538
Community Action Network	123,711
Community Development Exchange	232,602
Community Matters	261,603
Consortium of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Voluntary and Community Organisations	94,556
Development Trust Association	145,624
FaithAction	262,656
Foyer Federation	118,195
National Association for Voluntary and Community Action	424,753
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services	242,143
National Council of Voluntary Organisations	1,040,260
Third Sector European Network	84,313
Urban Forum	96,132
Women's Resource Centre	196,993
Co-operatives UK	101,000
Prowess	30,000
School for Social Entrepreneurs	72,000
Social Enterprise Coalition	488,000
Social Enterprise London CIC	85,000
Social Firms	122,000
The Plunkett Foundation	63,000
Association of Charitable Foundations	126,100
Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust	94,600
British Youth Council	94,600
BTCV	315,200
Citizenship Foundation	210,100
Community Foundation Network	210,000
Community Service Volunteers	1,050,600
Institute of Fundraising	262,700
Mentoring and Befriending Foundation	1,050,600
National Youth Agency	315,200
TimeBank	525,300
Volunteering England	1,575,900
Youth Action Network	157,600
Youth net UK	472,800
Total	12,206,315

Unemployment: Tonbridge

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the *(a)* numerical and *(b)* percentage change in the number of people unemployed in Tonbridge and Malling constituency was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [301259]

(2) what the *(a)* numerical and *(b)* percentage change in the level of youth unemployment in Tonbridge and Malling constituency was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [301260]

(3) what proportion of the change in the level of unemployment in Tonbridge and Malling constituency in the latest 12 months for which figures are available was attributable to *(a)* men and *(b)* women; [301261]

(4) what the occupational groups were of people who became unemployed in Tonbridge and Malling constituency in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [301262]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what the (a) numerical and (b) percentage change in unemployment in Tonbridge and Malling constituency was in the last 12 months for which figure are available (301259); what the (a) numerical and (b) percentage change in the level of youth unemployment in Tonbridge and Malling constituency was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available (301260); what proportion of the change in the level of unemployment in Tonbridge and Malling constituency in the latest 12 months for which figures are available was attributable to (a) men and (b) women (301261); and what the occupational groups were of people who became unemployed in Tonbridge and Malling constituency in the latest 12 months for which figures are available (301262).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Estimates of unemployment for Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency are not available due to small sample sizes. As an alternative, information has been provided based on claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance.

Table 1 shows the increase in the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, between October 2008 and October 2009, aged between 18 and 24 and in total, resident in the Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency, along with the percentage increase between these two periods.

Table 2 shows the proportion of the total change in the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, between October 2008 and October 2009, resident in the Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency, by males and females.

Table 3 shows the usual occupations of people who have commenced a new period of claim for Jobseeker's Allowance over the period from November 2008 to October 2009 along with the proportion each occupation group contributes to the total new claims. The total number of new claims over the period is much higher than the change in number of claims in Tables 1 and 2 because many new claims would have subsequently been terminated over the period.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Change and percentage change in the number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency between October 2008 and October 2009

	Aged 18 to 24	*Total*
October 2008	165	615
October 2009	350	1,245
Change	185	630
Percentage change	112	102

Note:

Count data rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Table 2: Proportion of change in number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency between October 2008 and October 2009 by sex

	Male	*Female*
October 2008	450	165
October 2009	895	350
Change	445	185
Proportion of change	71	29

Note:

Count data rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Table 3: Proportion of total on-flows[1] to jobseeker's allowance from November 2008 to October 2009 by usual occupation group[2] of people resident in Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency

Occupation group	*On-flows*	*Proportion of on-flows*
Occupation unknown	45	1
Managers and Senior Officials	520	13
Professional Occupations	200	5
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	395	10
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	540	14
Skilled Trades Occupations	540	14
Personal Service Occupations	160	4
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	500	13
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	295	7
Elementary Occupations	795	20

[1] On-flows are people who started a new claim for jobseeker's allowance during the period. New claimants may have also subsequently terminated a claim during the period.

[2] Occupation group based on Standard Occupational Classification 2000.

Note:

Count data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Unemployment: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of long-term youth unemployment was in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd constituency and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. [302342]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of long-term youth unemployment was in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd constituency and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. (302342)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Estimates of unemployment for the requested age and duration are not available. As an alternative, in Table 1, we have provided the percentage of persons, aged between 18 and 24 who have been claiming unemployment related benefits for over 52 weeks, resident in the Vale of Clwyd and each English Government Office Region, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The data have been provided for the latest available period of October 2009, and October of each year to 1989. Data for Vale of Clwyd and Northern Ireland are only available from 1996.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.noraisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Persons aged 18 to 24 claiming unemployment related benefits[1] for over 52 weeks resident in Vale of Clwyd and each English Government office region, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Percentage

October	*Vale of Clwyd*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and The Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1989	—	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.1	1.7	0.4	1.4	0.3	0.6	1.6	2.9	—
1990	—	2.4	2.2	1.6	0.9	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.6	1.3	2.2	—
1991	—	3.4	3.0	2.5	1.8	2.4	1.1	2.2	0.9	1.4	2.3	2.5	—
1992	—	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.0	4.1	2.3	3.9	2.1	2.7	3.4	3.1	—

Table 1: Persons aged 18 to 24 claiming unemployment related benefits[1] for over 52 weeks resident in Vale of Clwyd and each English Government office region, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Percentage

October	Vale of Clwyd	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South-east	South-west	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
1993	—	4.6	4.2	3.8	3.4	4.6	2.9	4.6	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.1	—
1994	—	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.0	39	2.4	4.3	2.2	2.5	3.1	2.8	—
1995		4.0	3.0	2.9	2.4	3.0	1.9	3.9	1.7	2.0	2.6	2.2	—
1996	3.9	3.4	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.6	1.6	3.2	1.4	1.8	2.5	2.0	3.3
1997	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.4	0.8	1.7	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.2	2.3
1998	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.6
1999	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
2000	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5
2001	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5
2002	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
2003	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	01	0.1	0.1	0.2
2004	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
2005	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
2006	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
2007	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
2008	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
2009	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	01	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5

Note:

Changes in overall levels of long term youth claimants of unemployment related benefits have partially been influenced by the introduction of re-employment programmes, such as New Deal.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Young People: Females

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many girls older than 12 and younger than 18 years old were resident in each local authority area in 2008. [302544]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many girls older than 12 and younger than 18 years old were resident in each local authority area in 2008. (302544)

Table 1 shows the number of females aged over 12 and under 18 resident in each local authority area in the UK in mid-2008. These are the latest data available. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of 10 to 17 year olds there were for being drunk and disorderly in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in 2008. [302450]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistics for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Asylum

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has evaluated on the extent to which *(a)* linguistic and *(b)* economic factors affect the decisions of (i) migrants and (ii) asylum seekers to seek to live in the UK. [301225]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

1. Linguistic factors affecting migrants' decisions

Other than the study referred to as follows in relation to asylum seekers, there are no reports published by the Home office which refer to linguistic factors affecting migrants' decisions to live in the UK.

2. Economic factors affecting migrants' decisions

Although there is no published information from the Department answering your query, the department has made use of work undertaken by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in 2003, entitled "The Determinants of International Migration into the UK: A Panel Based Modelling Approach", by James Mitchell and Nigel Pain.

3. Linguistic factors affecting asylum seekers' decisions to live in the UK

In 2002, the Home Office published a study (Home Office Research Study 243) on the decision making of asylum seekers, entitled "Understanding the decision-making of asylum seekers", by Vaughan Robinson and Jeremy Segrott.

This work was undertaken by the Migration Unit in the Department of Geography at the University of Wales, Swansea.

4. Economic factors affecting asylum seekers' decisions to live in the UK

A number of studies making reference to economic factors have been used, the

first of which is referred to in (3), above. A number of other studies also refer to economic factors including:

"The social networks of asylum seekers and the dissemination of information about countries of asylum", by Khaled Koser and Charles Pinkerton (2002). Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate;

"An assessment of the impact of asylum policies in Europe 1990-2000", by Roger Zetter, David Griffiths, Silva Ferretti and Martyn Pearl (2003). Home Office Research Study 259;

"The Determinants of International Migration into the UK: A Panel Based Modelling Approach", by James Mitchell and Nigel Pain (2003). National Institute of Economic and Social Research;

"Why asylum policy harmonization undermines refugee burden-sharing", by Eiko R. Thielemann (2004), European journal of migration and law, 6 (1). Pp 47-65;

"Migration and the Economic Downturn: what to Expect in the European Union", by Demetrios G. Papademetriou, Madeleine Sumption, and Will Somerville (2009). Migration Policy Institute;

"Immigration in the United Kingdom: The recession and beyond", by Will Somerville and Madeleine Sumption (2009). Migration Policy Institute; and

"Does Policy Matter? On Governments' Attempts to Control Unwanted Migration", by Eiko R. Thielemann (2003). London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE. November 2003). IMS Discussion Paper No. 9.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of the Prime Minister's question-and-answer session with members of the Mumsnet forum on 16 October 2009; to what categories of asylum seeker the inflationary increases referred in the Prime Minister's discussion do not apply; what the change in the weekly amount of support to a single adult asylum seeker aged 25 years is; and if he will make a statement. [301645]

Mr. Woolas: The Prime Minister informed Mumsnet that the Government are not cutting the amount of money given to lone parent asylum seeking families. The lone parent rate will remain at £42.16 and the amount of money going to asylum-seeking children is going up by 5.2 per cent. These changes came into effect on 6 July 2009.

The existing support structure was modelled on that used by the Department for Work and Pensions for income support. This system distinguishes between persons aged under and over 25. Given that all asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute have access to rent free accommodation with utilities included, we do not consider the essential living needs of supported asylum seekers change on the 25th birthday.

Therefore, there has been no increase to the existing over 25 rate and from 5 October no new support recipients have received this rate. Instead, a new unified rate of support for all single adult asylum seekers (excluding lone parents) regardless of age was introduced. This rate is £35.13 per week. We will honour the old over-25 rate for those asylum seekers already in receipt of it by 5 October until their appeals rights are exhausted or they are granted.

With the exception of the rate for lone parents, and the rate for single adults over 25, on 6 July all other asylum support rates were increased by 5.2 per cent. in line with the Consumer Price Index for September 2008.

Asylum Seekers: Aviation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions an airline refused to take on grounds of disruptive behaviour an asylum seeker who was being deported in the last *(a)* six months and *(b)* two years. [301307]

Mr. Woolas: Agency records show that in the last six months, on 15 occasions an airline has refused to take on grounds of disruptive behaviour an individual we are seeking to deport.

Asylum: Iraq

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers of Iraqi nationality have *(a)* been granted a right to remain in the UK, *(b)* been deported to Iraq and *(c)* been taken into detention after a refusal to travel to Iraq in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2009 to date. [300973]

Mr. Woolas: The table shows the number of Iraqi failed asylum seekers who have been subsequently granted some form of leave and been forcibly removed (or voluntarily departed) from the United Kingdom in each of the last three years to the end of June 2009 (the latest period for which figures are available).

The figures in *(a)* do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum, including those in *(b)*, are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Since August 2009 the UK Border Agency has published statistics for the numbers of people entering detention, broken down by country of nationality. These data are currently available for January to June 2009, and can be viewed in Tables G and H of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Supplementary Tables, April to June 2009:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209supp.xls

However, the reason for an individual's detention, including a refusal to return to their country of origin, is not recorded centrally. To retrieve this information would require the manual examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

	(a) Granted leave	*(b) Removed*[1]
2006	2,971	1,645
2007	2,452	470
2008	2,249	790
2009 (to June)	1,404	490

[1] Including those who have departed voluntarily.

Biometrics

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was for a biometric information enrolment appointment following a postal application to the biometric enrolment centres at *(a)* Croydon, *(b)* Sheffield, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Glasgow and *(f)* Belfast was in 2008. [301902]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: As at 24 November 2009, the waiting time for a biometric enrolment appointment following a postal application was two days in Croydon, Sheffield, Liverpool, Birmingham and Glasgow and four days in Belfast.

Borders: Personal Records

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a statutory basis for the e-borders programme. [300512]

Mr. Woolas: Primary legislation was enacted in 2006 to provide the framework enabling powers for the programme. The primary legislation (paragraphs 27 and 27B of schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 as amended in 2006 and sections 32 to 38 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006) creates powers for the UK Border Agency and the police, to obtain passenger, crew and service data from carriers in advance of all movements into and out of the UK and a duty for the border agencies to share that data among themselves.

This was followed by five statutory instruments in 2007 and 2008, which:

(a) Commenced the above powers,

(b) Extended the powers to cover channel tunnel trains,

(c) Specified the data that can be requested by UKBA and the police,

(d) Specified the data that must be shared between the border agencies, and

(e) Brought the code of practice regarding data sharing into force.

The Immigration Simplification Bill will update the clauses of legislation enacted in this area.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300872]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office policy is that no official funds are used for Christmas parties: any parties attended are entirely at the cost of the individual member of staff.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity. [300891]

Mr. Woolas: No Ministers or officials from my Department will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in an official capacity.

Crime: Business

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to collect data on the annual cost of crime to small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [301105]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are no plans to collect new data on the cost of crime to small businesses annually. However, the National Retail Crime Steering Group Action Plan published on the Home Office website outlines steps we are taking with retail partners and the police to improve the collation and sharing of data on business crime.

Crime: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes involving knives there were in the Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [300719]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office collects knife/sharp instrument offences data at force level only, so data are not available for Milton Keynes.

Additionally, data have only been collated since 2007, so data are only available for the last two years, not the requested five year period.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300933]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is participating in the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) as part of the Department's mainstream Value for Money Programme. The Department has a strong record of delivery against Value for Money targets demonstrating its sustained, long-term commitment to this work.

In the 2009 annual departmental report the Home Office reported gains worth £544 million. Of this £85 million was delivered through better procurement services including collaborative contracts, consolidated IT and rationalisation of the estate, forming part of the Department's contribution to the Government's £35 billion target for the current spending review period.

Building upon this work, we will use the Operational Efficiency Programme to bring extra focus to achieving greater efficiency in a number of cross-cutting areas. This will include taking additional steps to drive improvements in our back office, collaborative procurement, property and IT. The details of these savings will next be published in the 2010 autumn performance report.

Departmental Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the error rate in each database run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [300731]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit procured by his Department that was produced in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300185]

Mr. Woolas: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The report shows the proportion of domestically produced food procured by the Home Office where figures were available and which had gone up from 68 per cent. in 2006-07 to 70 per cent. in 2007-08. Home Office Headquarters PFI service provider is now providing data to DEFRA for use in future reports and in due course data are also expected to come from our new regional facilities delivery contracts let in June 2008. DEFRA expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Departmental ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements for information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; how many such agreements have been breached in each year; and what the cost to his Department was of each such breach. [300518]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has had no exclusivity agreements with any organisations for information technology for either hardware or software in each of the last five years.

One of our executive agencies the Criminal Records Bureau has an exclusivity agreement and details are provided in the following table:

Table 1

	Details
Home Office/Agency	Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)
Contract description	CRB Disclosure Service
Name of organisation exclusivity agreement with	Capita
Contract start date	2002
Number of breaches of the agreement	0
Cost	0

The remaining two executive agencies, UK Border Agency and United Kingdom Identity and Passport Service do not have any exclusivity agreements with any organisations for information technology for either hardware or software in each of the last five years.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300658]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office's executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies do not have any direct employer-employee relationships with individual consultants or contractors.

The executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies engage consultants and contractors through suppliers on consultancy and contractor assignments. They do not, therefore, pay the salaries, nor any incentives or bonuses for these individuals.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301539]

Mr. Woolas: We can provide complete information relating to this question only at a disproportionate cost. However, the information we do hold is set out in table 1.

Table 1: Jobs advertised externally for online application only

	Provision for those who do not have access to the internet	*Proportion of jobs advertised externally for online application only (Percentage)*
Home Office HQ	Candidates who are unable to access the internet have the option of contacting the recruitment provider who will input the information on to the online application on their behalf	20
Senior Civil Service	Applicants can submit hard copy applications to a postal address	0
UK Border Agency	All vacancies have a facility for paper copies to be sent to candidates who are unable to apply online or via e-mail for a variety of reasons	1

Table 1: Jobs advertised externally for online application only

	Provision for those who do not have access to the internet	*Proportion of jobs advertised externally for online application only (Percentage)*
Identity and Passport Service	The only exception to online only applications is for those with a disability that prevents them from using an online application form. Hard copy provision is made for disabled staff in these circumstances. For other applicants there is free access to the internet via public libraries and other access points available at no cost	100
Criminal Records Bureau	Applicants can submit hard copy applications to a postal address	0

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[1] Information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mass of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [301564]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office collects data on waste and recycling in line with the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets.

These require that data are supplied on total tonnage of waste recycled but it is not broken down into its constituent parts and this information is not available for the entire estate.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department it publishes. [302349]

Mr. Woolas: As a matter of course, the Home Office publishes all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the "Code of Practice for Official Statistics" and the "National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics".

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301327]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPB's) are committed to supporting the wellbeing of its staff and have in place a range of flexible working policies that can help all staff balance their work and home life.

The flexible working options offered vary throughout the Department, its agencies and NDPB's but can include flexi-time working, compressed hours, term time, part time, job share, and home working arrangements. Flexible working arrangements are agreed locally and may also be used on an ad hoc, informal basis.

The Home Office policy on Flexible working offers all staff the facility to apply for flexible working using any (or a combination) of the options listed. A draft of the policy is attached at Annex 2 placed in the House Library.

Unless there are specific business reasons why a post can only be filled by a full-time member of staff all posts must be advertised as open to part-time staff and job sharers. A Home Office Job Share Database is available to help staff identify potential job share partners within the Home Office HQ and UK Border Agency. Staff across the Department and its agencies and NDPB's can also use the Civil Service wide Job Share Database.

Information on the flexible working arrangements in use in the Home Office Headquarters, the executive agencies and the NDPB's is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Flexible Working in the Home Office its Executive Agencies and NDPB's

	Total number of staff employed	*The proportion of part time staff (includes part time, job-share and term time) as a percentage of the full time staff employed*	*The proportion of staff who use flexi-time working arrangements*	*The number of staff using other forms of flexible working (including compressed hours, annualised hours and homeworking)*
Home Office Headquarters	[1]2,925	394 (13.47%)[1]	47.35%	Data not available[2]
Executive Agencies				
UK Border Agency	[1]18,211	[1]3,453 (18.96%)	Data not held centrally[3]	Data not available[2]
Identity and Passport Service	[1]4,387	[1]1,308 (29.82%)	Data not held centrally[3]	Data not available[2]
Criminal Records Bureau	[1]576	[1]94 (16.32%)	95%	Less than 5% of staff
Public Bodies				
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)	4,230	226 (5.34%)	Data not held centrally[3]	81
National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)	1,523	116 (7.6%)	97.90%	108
Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)	468	26 (5.6%)	Data not held centrally[3]	16
Security Industry Authority (SIA)	165	3 (1.80%)	93.30%	5

Table 1: Flexible Working in the Home Office its Executive Agencies and NDPB's

	Total number of staff employed	*The proportion of part time staff (includes part time, job-share and term time) as a percentage of the full time staff employed*	*The proportion of staff who use flexi-time working arrangements*	*The number of staff using other forms of flexible working (including compressed hours, annualised hours and homeworking)*
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)	60	3 (5%)	100%	8
Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)	229	29 (15.28%)	100%	5

[1] Source: Home Department Dataview Extract as at 31 March 2009. Representative of Paid Civil Servants

[2] Staff with compressed hours working patterns are recorded as Full Time Equivalents and cannot be identified separately as working flexibly. Data on staff who have formal or informal homeworking arrangements is not recorded centrally

[3] Staff have access to flexi-time working arrangements, however not all staff record their working patterns electronically. Data on the number of staff using the flexi-time systems in use is also not collated centrally.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers were awaiting deportation on 1 November 2009; [301239]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners were awaiting deportation on 1 November 2009. [301240]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency only deports foreign nationals offenders who meet the following criteria for deportation:

A court recommendation.

For non-European economic area nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

At the point where no barriers to removal exist, the UK Border Agency will set a direction to remove. According to provisional management information, as at 20 November, approximately 125 foreign nationals who met the relevant deportation criteria had removal directions set against them.

Of these, around one third had also submitted a claim for asylum at some stage prior to the removal direction being set.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which section of his Department is responsible for handling the legal proceedings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals on grounds of national security. [301269]

Mr. Woolas: The Special Cases Directorate of the United Kingdom Border Agency manage the cases through the courts. Legal Advisors Branch and the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism in the Home Office also deal with specific aspects of the legal case.

Other directorates can be brought in as and when required in specific cases.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on the grounds of fomenting extremism under the 12-point plan in each quarter since the plan was implemented. [301270]

Mr. Woolas: I have taken the term "fomenting extremism" as equating to unacceptable behaviour under the policy announced by my right hon. Friend, the then Home Secretary on 24 August 2005. The powers to exclude or deport an individual on the grounds of their unacceptable behaviour are directed at foreign nationals who foment hatred or violence in support of their extremist beliefs. In each quarter since August 2005 the following number of foreign nationals have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour:

In 2005

(a) 0

(b) Q3 = 3[1]

Q4 = 18

In 2006

(a) Q4 = 1

(b) Q1 = 8

Q2 = 10

Q3 = 4

Q4 = 11

In 2007

(a) 0

(b) Q1 = 0

Q2 = 7

Q3 = 5

Q4 = 9

In 2008

(a) 0

(b) Q1 = 4

Q2 = 0

Q3 = 0

Q4 = 8

In 2009

(a) 0

(b) Q1 = 14

Q2 = 4

Q3 = 1 to date

[1] This figure is from August 2005 and included within previous PQ answer on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2359W the figure given was four. This figure has now been reduced to three due to the re-classification of one exclusion, from unacceptable behaviour to public order.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been extradited for terrorism-related offences in each quarter since the announcement of the 12-point plan in August

2005; and how many requests from his Department for extradition for terrorism-related offences *(a)* are outstanding and *(b)* have been made since August 2005. [301271]

Mr. Woolas: Between August 2005 and September 2008, 13 people were extradited by the UK for terrorism-related offences; four people were discharged by UK courts; five cases are ongoing and one case was withdrawn by the Requesting State. The following table gives a breakdown of these figures.

The UK's extradition partners are divided into two categories. Category 1 territories are those Member States of the EU that operate the Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant (EAW). Category 2 territories are those territories outside the EU with which the UK has extradition relations by way of either bilateral or multilateral extradition treaties:

Part 1

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for cases involving Scotland) are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission of EAWs in the UK. It is not possible from current SOCA systems to break down the number of extraditions and EAWs issued or received by offence type.

Part 2

There have been no persons extradited between the UK and Category 2 territories, in either direction, for terrorism-related offences since September 2008.

As a matter of policy and practice, the Home Office will neither confirm nor deny the existence of any extradition request ahead of a person's arrest.

Extradition requests for terrorist related offences since August 2005

	Arrested	*Status as at 17 September 2008*	*Number*
2005			
	Pre-August 2005	Withdrawn by Requesting State	1
	3rd quarter	Ongoing	1
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	2
2006			
	Pre-August 2005	Discharged	1
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	3
	1st quarter	Discharged	1
	2nd quarter	Extradited	1
	3rd quarter	Extradited	1
	3rd quarter	Ongoing	1
2007			
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	1
	2nd quarter	Extradited	3
	2nd quarter	Ongoing	1
	4th quarter	Ongoing	2
	4th quarter	Discharged	2
2008			
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	1
	1st quarter	Extradited	1

Note:
There are currently four other cases before the courts which were received before August 2005.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of immigration removals were made at the *(a)* first and *(b)* second attempt in each of the last five years. [301312]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Deportat[illegible] Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent est[illegible] is of the cost to the public purse of the *(a)* forced and *(b)* voluntary removal of an individual. [301234]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the cost of enforced or voluntary removals because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the National Audit Office (NAO) give a breakdown of the cost of typical asylum cases in 2007-08 in part four of their report 'The Home Office Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency' which was published on 23 January 2009. The table on page 36 of the report sets out 12 typical profiles, including cases which result in either enforced or voluntary removal, and the lower to upper end estimate of costs either excluding or including accommodation and support costs. For example, profile four, estimates the cost of a case resulting in the enforced removal of a single, undetained adult after he or she has exhausted their appeal rights, as being between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support, or £12,000 to £25,600 including accommodation and support. This report is available to view at the following website:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

However, the UK Border Agency aims to ensure removals are effected at the lowest available rate subject to operational needs.

DNA and Fingerprint Database

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign intelligence agencies or agents have access to *(a)* the Government's DNA and fingerprint database and *(b)* other private information on British citizens and residents gathered under counter-terrorism legislation in the last five years. [301019]

Mr. Hanson: Foreign intelligence agencies do not have direct access to the UK's DNA and fingerprint databases. But it is possible for them to receive DNA and fingerprint information from the UK by, for example, making a request for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, or through intelligence channels via organisations such as Interpol and Europol.

The UK has counter-terrorism police officers (counter-terrorism and extremism liaison officers known as CTELOs) based within foreign law enforcement agencies and UK missions. Their role is to co-ordinate bilateral and multilateral liaison (including operational inquiries), requests for international legal assistance and exchange of police counter-terrorism and extremism intelligence.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government is taking to protect women with an insecure immigration status from domestic violence; [300621]

(2) what progress the Government has made on its review of the 20 day proposal for conditional funding for victims of domestic violence; [300622]

(3) how many women of insecure immigration status the Government estimates experienced domestic violence in 2008; [300623]

(4) what interim measures the Government has put in place to aid women of insecure immigration status who experience domestic violence until their immigration status is resolved. [300624]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 November 2009]:* Statistical data confirm that in 2008, 1,342 indefinite leave to remain (ILR) applications under the domestic violence rule were received by the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

Over the past year, the UKBA have made a number of amendments to their processes to assist this group of victims including:

Extensive revisions to the Domestic Violence Immigration Directorate Instructions

Substantial changes to the SET (DV) application form, for example eliminating duplications in checklists and providing more scope for applicants to explain the reasons why they cannot supply information

Implementing a new definition of destitution

The Home Office will be running a pilot from 30 November 2009 for a three month period for victims of domestic violence who entered the UK on a spouse or partner visa and consequently have no recourse to public funds.

The pilot will provide upfront funding to the refuge provider to cover the essential housing and living costs incurred in supporting the victim while they make an application for ILR and await their decision from the UKBA. The funding will be available for a maximum of eight weeks.

The pilot will be monitored and evaluated throughout with an overall evaluation being conducted in March 2010 which will assist in informing our next steps in developing a longer-term solution to the issue.

Note:

The figures quoted have not been quality assured and are not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average annual number of women with an immigration status which is not determined who were subject to domestic violence in the latest period for which information is available. [301004]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistical data confirm that in 2008, 1,342 Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) applications under the Domestic Violence Rule were received by the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

Note:

The figures quoted have not been quality assured and are not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Domestic Violence: Unemployment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has undertaken on any relationship between levels of domestic violence and unemployment. [301228]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The British Crime Survey (BCS) shows risk of domestic violence by personal characteristics, including the respondent's employment status. Table 3.04 from Crime in England and Wales 2008-09

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap3.pdf

shows that 0.8 per cent. of unemployed people experienced domestic violence in the past year compared with 0.3 per cent. of employed people. However, this apparent difference is not statistically significant.

The data are based on face-to-face BCS interviews. Figures from the BCS self-completion module on intimate violence also show no statistically significant difference in the risk of domestic abuse between employed and unemployed people. See Table 3.16 in

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0209.pdf

Dual Nationality: Pakistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on dual nationality, whether any steps have been taken by his Department to ascertain the numbers of British passport holders who also hold Pakistani nationality. [301969]

Meg Hillier: There has been no change in the position. As applicants for British passports are not required to say whether they hold another nationality, this information is not available.

Entry Clearances

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas for family visitors to the UK have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused by applicants of (i) Pakistani, (ii) Indian, (iii) Bangladeshi, (iv) Sri Lankan and (v) all nationalities in each of the last three years. [300356]

Mr. Woolas: The number of applications for family visit visas from nationals of *(a)* Pakistan; *(b)* India; *(c)* Bangladesh; *(d)* Sri Lanka; and *(e)* other countries, that were (i) granted; and (ii) refused, in the financial year 2008-09, is shown in the following table:

Family visit visa applications—financial year 2008-09

	Issued	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*
Pakistan	34,778	23,957	41
India	87,530	13,724	14
Bangladesh	8,431	3,862	31
Sri Lanka	10,308	2,112	17
Other nationality	132,470	41,776	24
Total	273,517	85,431	24

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the UK Border Agency is of processing *(a)* a postal and *(b)* a premium application for further leave to remain under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system. [301659]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 November 2009]*: In 2009-10, the estimated average unit cost of processing a postal leave to remain application is £357 and the estimated average unit cost of processing an application made at a Public Enquiry Office is £373.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for UK citizenship were refused on the grounds that the applicant was not of good character in each of the last three years; and of them how many were so refused on *(a)* grounds of national security and *(b)* grounds other than national security. [301784]

Mr. Woolas: The available data for refusals of British citizenship on grounds that the applicant is not of good character, 2006 to 2008 are shown in the following table.

It is not possible to separately identify within these data which involved national security considerations without reference to the individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on persons refused British citizenship by general reason for refusal are published in table 7 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Refusal of British citizenship on grounds of the applicant not being of good character, 2006-08

Reason for refusal—not of good character[1]	*Number of decisions*
2006	1,765
2007	1,695
2008[2]	2,665

[1] Includes applicants who are considered a threat to national security.
[2] Provisional

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries the UK has a visa waiver agreement. [301990]

Mr. Woolas: European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are entitled to free movement and do not require visas or other permission to enter the United Kingdom.

There are two groups subject to immigration control known as visa nationals and non-visa nationals. A visa national needs entry clearance (a visa) to enter the UK in any circumstances. A non-visa national can come to the UK for less than six months as a visitor without a visa, subject to a number of exclusions such as marriage, study or medical treatment, but does need entry clearance to come to the UK for more than six months.

At present, nationals of over 100 countries or territorial entities are visa nationals. The countries are set out in Appendix 1 to the immigration rules at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendix1

The nationals of all other countries outside the EEA are non-visa nationals. The UK global visa regime was recently reviewed as part of the Visa Waiver Test. This is an assessment against a series of benchmarks, by which we considered whether a visa regime should be maintained, lifted or imposed. The results of the test were announced in February this year and new visa regimes were introduced on South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Bolivia in spring/summer. In addition the visa regime on Taiwan was lifted and a partial visa regime was introduced in Venezuela.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have switched from a tier 4 to a tier 2 visa since 2008. [300536]

Mr. Woolas: A tier 4 student is able to switch into three of the four categories of tier 2—general, minister of religion and sportsperson. The information requested is not readily available and accurate data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have switched from a tier 4 to a tier 2 visa since 2008. [301001]

Mr. Woolas: A Tier 4 student is able to switch into three of the four categories of Tier 2 - General, Minister of Religion and Sportsperson. The information requested is not readily available and accurate data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students of each nationality have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* been granted and *(c)* been refused visas under arrangements for the post-study work route of entry to the UK in each month since June 2008. [301662]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 November 2009]*: A table has been placed in the House Library showing the number of non-EEA nationals of each nationality who have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* been granted, and *(c)* been refused visas under the Points Based System, Tier 1 (Post Study Work) entry route, in each month from June 2008 to September 2009

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of applications for further leave to remain have been refused since the introduction of Tier 4 provisions to the Immigration Rules; and how long such decisions have taken on average. [301903]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: Data relating to decisions on applications for further leave to remain were published on 26 November in the Home Office statistical publication "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—Third Quarter 2009". Copies are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The requested information will therefore not be available for release until this date.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have applied more than once for a student visa at each post in each month since the introduction of Tier 4 provisions to the Immigration Rules. [300907]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: Total numbers are as follows:

	Number
April 2009	205
May 2009	1,021
June 2009	2,267
July 2009	3,754
August 2009	6,966
September 2009	8,895

These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

We could provide data for each post only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for an administrative review of overseas visa posts have been received from applicants refused a Tier 4 visa since the introduction of Tier 4 provisions to the Immigration Rules; and how long it has taken to complete such a review at each post in each month since the inception of Tier 4. [300906]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: The number of requests for an administrative review received at overseas posts are as follows:

	Number
April 2009	1
May 2009	44
June 2009	174
July 2009	304
August 2009	307
September 2009	509

These data are based on manual returns and may be incomplete.

This data is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

We do not keep information on the duration of the administrative review process.

Foreign Nationals: Detainees

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of sentence-expired foreign nationals being held in detention under his Department's immigration powers. [300744]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency continues to build upon the success we have made with the deportation and removal of foreign national prisoners. In 2008 we deported or removed a record 5,395 foreign national prisoners. The process of deportation can be delayed in a number of ways through last minute legal barriers and the documentation process is often lengthy for some nationalities.

As at 1 August 2009 there were approximately 1,800 foreign national offenders detained under immigration powers who had completed their sentence and were awaiting deportation. Around 500 of those were detained under immigration powers in Her Majesty's prisons.

Foreign Workers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures have been introduced to tackle discrimination in hiring and dismissing migrants within the workforce in the last 10 years. [300487]

Mr. Woolas: Migrants that access legal migration routes are entitled to the same protections against discrimination in the workplace as resident workers.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which employment sectors require migrant labour. [300488]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are advised by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on the case for meeting specific skill shortages through the Points Based System (PBS) for non-EEA nationals. In particular, the MAC advises the Government on the coverage of the Shortage Occupation List which informs the scoring of points under Tier 2 (skilled workers) of the PBS. In doing so, the MAC not only identifies those occupations where skills are in short supply but also assesses the extent to which it is sensible for such shortage to be remedied through the admission of migrant workers.

The MAC's most recent report on the content of the Shortage Occupation List was published on 21 October. The Government's decision to accept its findings in full was announced on 12 November. The Government have also announced, on 11 November, their National Skills Strategy in which the Government made clear their intention to strengthen the linkage between the MAC's work to identify those areas where migration could assist in meeting immediate skills needs and future work by the UK Commission on Employment and Skills to develop and prioritise training strategies.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to inform the public of the economic and social contribution made by migrants. [300495]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have consistently emphasised the economic and social benefits that migration brings if it is properly managed. In introducing the points based system, the Government have sought to maximise the economic benefits of migration by ensuring that we admit those who possess skills that UK businesses and providers of public services need or who will contribute to UK exports by studying here. However, as both the Home Secretary's speech on 4 November and the Prime Minister's speech on 12 November have made clear, it is equally important that the migration system is proofed against abuse and protects the interests of communities and resident workers if the public is to have confidence in it and the benefits it delivers.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on trends in temporary labour migration in the last 10 years. [300563]

Mr. Woolas: Information on non-EEA nationals entering the United Kingdom by reason for entry is published in section 1 in the Home Office statistical bulletin "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, 2008". This includes those persons granted leave to enter in work-related categories.

The following table is an extract of table 1.4 from the publication showing the number of work permit holders and their dependants entering the United Kingdom in the last 10 years.

Statistics on other work-related routes of entry can be found in table 1.2 in the above publication which may be obtained from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Information on A8 accession state nationals registered under the Workers Registration Scheme can be found in the Accession Monitoring Report on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/

Statistics covering applications for accession worker cards and registration certificates by nationals of Bulgaria and Romania (known as the A2 countries) are available from the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/bulgarianromanian/

The above publications are also available from the Library of the House.

Section 1 Border Control: Table 1.4—Work permit holders and dependants given leave to enter the United Kingdom, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 1999 to 2008[1]

Number of persons

	All nationalities[2]			
Year of admission	*Total*	*Employment for 12 months or more*	*Employment for less than 12 months*[3]	*Dependants of work permit holders*
1999	76,180	25,090	28,445	22,645
2000[4]	92,050	36,290	30,785	24,970
2001[4]	108,825	50,280	30,785	27,760
2002	120,115	51,525	34,095	34,495
2003	119,180	44,480	36,870	37,830
2004	124,200	42,235	40,420	41,545
2005	137,035	51,165	40,350	45,520
2006	145,120	57,540	39,060	48,515
2007[5]	127,765	51,600	37,575	38,590
2008[6]	112,485	43,375	37,975	31,135

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five ('—' = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Nationals of EU accession countries are included or excluded according to their accession date.

[3] Includes the majority of work permit trainees.

[4] A change in procedures may have resulted in some under-recording for the fourth quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001.

[5] Revised figures.

[6] Provisional figures.

Foreign Workers: Entry Clearances

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the effect on domestic workers requiring a visa of the cost of visa renewal. [300720]

Mr. Woolas: Domestic workers make up a small proportion of the total number of leave to remain applications. There has been no specific assessment of the effect on domestic workers requiring a visa of the cost of visa renewal.

Foreigners: Detainees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were being held on the immigration detention estate on 1 November 2009. [301236]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency continues to build upon the success we have made with the deportation and removal of foreign national prisoners. In 2008 we deported or removed a record 5,395 foreign national prisoners. The process of deportation can be delayed in a number of ways through last minute legal barriers and the documentation process is often lengthy for some nationalities.

As at 1 August 2009 there were approximately 1,800 foreign national offenders detained under immigration powers who had completed their sentence and were awaiting deportation. Around 500 of those were detained under immigration powers in prisons with the remaining in immigration removal centres.

Foreigners: Prisoners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were classified as mentally disordered on 1 November 2009. [301315]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not available in the form requested. Regardless of nationality, when a prisoner is suffering from a mental disorder which requires treatment in hospital, he/she can be transferred to hospital by the Secretary of State. However, statistical information is not specifically collected on numbers of foreign national prisoners transferred to hospital.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners under the age of 18 years there were in prison on 1 November 2009. [301316]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Data on foreign nationals are normally published quarterly. However, due to previously announced problems with the prison IT system the most recent data available relate to June 2009.

At the end of June 2009, there were 174 foreign national prisoners (FNPs) in England and Wales, aged under 18 years.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Gurkhas

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the total annual cost of welfare benefits for *(a)* Gurkha ex-servicemen settled in the UK, *(b)* dependants of such servicemen who have emigrated to the UK following the recent change in his Department's policy and *(c)* Gurkha servicemen who would be eligible to settle in the UK on their retirement; and if he will make a statement. [300424]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* There have been no recent estimates made on the cost of welfare benefits for those former members of the Brigade of Gurkhas and their dependents who have already served in the UK or will choose to do so as a result of the discretions announced earlier this year. Nor has there been any estimate made about the total cost of welfare benefits for those Gurkhas still serving who choose to settle in the UK upon discharge.

When the publication of the revised guidance was announced it was estimated that the likely annual cost of allowing all former Gurkhas to settle in the UK would be £1.4 billion. This figure was based on cross Government consultation.

Hate Crimes

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation designed to tackle hate-related offences. [300483]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have not made any recent formal assessment of the effectiveness of this legislation. In September 2009 the Home Office published the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan. This plan brings together a range of work being delivered across Government and criminal justice agencies to target hate crime. The development of the Action Plan, involved informal assessment of the current legislative provision against the work being delivered.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding he has allocated to the training of competent authority decision-makers for the identification of potential victims of human trafficking in each of the next three years. [301255]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* Funds have not been specifically allocated for training of competent authorities. To date this training has been treated as a business as usual cost by UKBA, supported by the UK Human Trafficking Centre and a number of voluntary sector organisations. There are no plans to change this arrangement.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of competent authority decision-makers responsible for the identification of potential victims of human trafficking are employed by the UK Border Agency. [301256]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* There are approximately 180 trained staff within UKBA who undertake this role part-time, alongside other duties. The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is the only other organisation that hosts competent authority decision-makers and it has three full-time competent authority posts.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for the review of a reasonable grounds decision taken by a competent authority decision-maker in relation to a potential victim of human trafficking. [301257]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* There is no requirement under the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking to create a specific right of appeal. The reasonable grounds decision is a low threshold which is made following multi-agency consultation and engagement. There is also an opportunity for first responders to provide additional information if the competent authority is initially unable to make a positive identification. This helps to ensure that the right decisions are taken and victims are properly identified. There are also standard avenues for appealing immigration decisions, and a reasonable grounds decision can be subject to judicial review.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many competent authority decision-makers have been trained since the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism for the identification of victims of human trafficking; and how many competent authority decision-makers he expects to be trained in the next three years. [301258]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* Over 180 people have been trained to act as competent authority decision makers within the national referral mechanism. There are no plans to significantly increase that number but the position will be regularly reviewed against the number of referrals made. New competent authorities will be trained if it is necessary to meet an increase in trafficking numbers.

Identity Cards: Costs

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department had spent on identity card readers on 1 October 2009. [301309]

Mr. Woolas: As of 1 October 2009 the UKBA has spent £107,574 on readers for identity cards for foreign nationals.

Illegal Immigrants

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effects of the clearance of the informal camp near Calais on levels of migration into the UK. [301218]

Mr. Woolas: Following commitments made by both the UK and French Governments under the Evian Agreement, the area in Calais known as "the jungle" was cleared on 22 September 2009.

An assessment was immediately conducted and showed that figures for clandestine arrivals into the UK, via the juxtaposed locations, had fallen following the operation. Ongoing assessments reveal the number of clandestine attempts to reach the UK from juxtaposed ports, has halved when compared to the same period last year. There were 1,170 individual attempts in October 2008, compared with 569 in October 2009[1].

The French authorities continue to monitor the area and dismantle any further illegal camps, which has reduced the number of migrants in the vicinity.

We continue to build on cross-border joint intelligence and enforcement work, in order to dismantle organised immigration crime groups. In addition to this we work closely with our French partners to improve port security and increase the number of returns flights.

Immigrants

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in countries of origin on assistance packages for returning migrants. [300562]

Mr. Woolas: The Government want people who are in the UK illegally to leave voluntarily and, in co-operation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), it operates assisted voluntary return schemes to help them to do so.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has had no recent discussions with his counterparts in countries of origin on assistance packages for returning migrants.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* monetary incentives and *(b)* other factors on return migrant flows; and if he will make a statement. [300564]

Mr. Woolas: The Government want failed asylum seekers who are in the UK illegally to leave voluntarily and, in co-operation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), it operates the assisted voluntary return (AVR) schemes to help them to do so. This offers failed asylum seekers a means of return which is both dignified and sustainable. To test elasticity of demand, we have piloted different packages of reintegration assistance to promote AVR.

The Assisted Voluntary Return programme offers packages of support to all returnees under the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP). This programme is subject to an annual external assessment which looks at the package of reintegration assistance on offer, and considers other factors which may affect migrants' decisions to return voluntarily.

UK Border Agency operate a short term upstream AVR project currently operating in Libya, implemented by IOM, which aims to offer a return and reintegration package to return up to 250 irregular Ethiopian migrants from Libya to their country of origin. The project is due to complete in December 2009, after which evaluation of the project will be made. At this point, therefore, it is not possible to fully assess the effect of monetary incentives or other factors on this return migrant path way.

The Secretary of State has no plans to make a statement at this time.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to provide access to employment opportunities for young migrants entering the UK. [300565]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's migration policy is to facilitate labour migration only where there is a clear economic need for it and it is not a function of the United Kingdom Border Agency to assist economic migrants in finding work. Tiers 2 and 5 of the Points Based System for skilled and temporary workers generally require migrants to have a job offer as a condition of admission to the UK.

Other migrants, including EU citizens (other than Bulgarian and Romanian nationals subject to restrictions on labour market access), may have free access to the labour market and may therefore have access to assistance in finding work (for example, through the services provided by Job Centre Plus) in the same way as resident workers. They can look for work through the Jobcentre Plus website, self service job kiosks in Jobcentres and through the Jobseeker Direct telephone service.

In line with its obligations as a member of the European Employment Service (EURES), Jobcentre Plus also provides information and advice designed to help EU migrant workers make informed choices before they leave their home country by:

Co-operating with other member states to make all vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus accessible to people in the EU through the European Commission's European Job Mobility Portal;

providing information about living and working conditions in the UK to migrant workers before they travel to the UK;

using a network of EURES advisers who provide information and advice on the UK labour market and job vacancies at events organised by the EURES network in other member states.

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[1] Statistics have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Torture

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that decision-makers and judges dealing with immigration cases are informed of the Istanbul protocol on the rights of torture victims and take its recommendations into account in their work; and if he will make a statement. [302478]

Mr. Woolas: The policy and guidance on the handling of asylum claims from alleged torture victims is currently under review and as part of this review, consideration will be given as to whether the Istanbul protocol should be taken into account by decision makers.

Immigration judges are required to determine any matter raised as a ground of appeal, but training and guidance provided to immigration judges is a matter for the judiciary.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to ensure that drivers have recourse to an independent body in disputing a fine issued in relation to the immobilisation of a vehicle on private land. [300741]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under proposals contained in the Crime and Security Bill, laid before Parliament on 20 November, we plan to amend the Private Security Industry Act 2001 to introduce a requirement for all vehicle immobilisation businesses to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority and to adhere to a strict code of practice, when working on private land.

As part of our plans we are working to introduce an independent appeals process for motorists who feel they have been unfairly treated.

More details of the Bill can be found at the following link:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimeandsecuritybill

Internet

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the protection of internet users in the UK, with particular reference to *(a)* trials of deep packet inspection hardware and *(b)* the consent of internet users to the interception of their communications; and if he will make a statement. [302777]

Mr. Hanson: Deep packet inspection can be used by internet service providers for a variety of uses, including the blocking of unwanted e-mails and "spam". The circumstances under which interception can be carried out with the consent of the users are set out in section 3(1) & (2) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The Home Office, together with other Government Departments, has received a number of representations relating to the use of targeted on line advertising systems.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will publish its response to the Chilcot Review into intercept evidence. [301937]

Mr. Hanson: As highlighted in the Written Ministerial Statement in July the end of the Intercept as Evidence work programme has been reached. Recent work has focused on drawing together emerging conclusions and testing their validity. I shall be reporting back to the House on the findings and conclusions of this work very shortly.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects a reply to be sent to the letters from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan of 21 August 2009 and 22 September 2009 to the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency regarding his constituent Mr. Beesely. [300676]

Mr. Woolas: In response to the letters of 21 August and 22 September 2009, the deputy director for economic and family migration in the London and South East region wrote to the right hon. Gentleman on 23 November 2009.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter of 11 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent Mr. Belal. [300677]

Mr. Woolas: A full substantive response was sent to the right hon. Gentleman by e-mail and by post, on 24 November in reply to his letter of 11 September 2009 about his constituent Mr. Belal.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 30 September 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, Ref: M22429/9. [301744]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 23 October 2009. A copy of the reply was sent on 25 November 2009.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department's International Group regional co-ordination unit of the EC errors team will reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 5 November 2009 with regard to Mr. Kamal Ramdani. [301746]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* On 11 November the UK Border Agency requested the e-mail from the entry clearance officer referred to as it was missing from the enclosures sent in with the letter. Once the hon. Member can provide this then a reply will be given.

National Identity Register

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to Lord Stoddart of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, columns 26-7WA, on the national identity register, how many fingerprints *(a)* per person and *(b)* in total he expects to be stored on the national identity register from 2012. [300533]

Meg Hillier: 10 fingerprint images will be recorded as part of an individual's identifying information on the National Register and two fingerprint images will be held on the chip in the identity card. Currently over 5 million passports are issued each year and it is intended that, from 2012 when fingerprint biometric passports are introduced, every adult applying for a British passport will be offered a choice of being issued with a fingerprint biometric passport or identity card (or both documents) and their identity details and fingerprint biometrics will be recorded on the National Identity Register.

Passports

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to modernise the passport application process; and what plans he has for the future of that process. [301451]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service has taken a series of steps in recent years to modernise the passport application process including the provision of an online electronic passport application form on the Directgov website and the introduction of additional background checks and interviews for adults applying for their first passport, together with a video interview service for first time adult applicants who live in remote communities.

Improved photo standards have been introduced to allow for the introduction of e-passports incorporating the facial image of the applicant on a chip in the passport. This allows e-passport holders to pass through fast track automated gates at the border control at a number of airports.

In the future it is intended to enhance the online application channel including an ability to pay online. It is also intended to introduce fingerprint biometric passports and to legislate to provide for a single application process so that anyone aged 16 and over applying for a fingerprint biometric passport will have the choice of being issued with a passport or an identity card or both.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers carried firearms as a regular part of their duties in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in 2007-08. [302451]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on the number of authorised firearms officers in England and Wales in 2007-08 were published on 2 March 2009 and can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/police-firearms-use-2007-2008

Figures for 2008-09 will be published before April 2010.

Police: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks on police there have been in each *(a)* division of Lancashire police force area and *(b)* constituency in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [301409]

Mr. Hanson: Data on assaults are not collected centrally by division or constituency. Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers in Lancashire for 2004-05 to 2008-09 are given in the following table:

Assaults on police officers in Lancashire, 2004-05 to 2008-09[1,2,3,4]

	Assaults (headcount)
2008-09	370
2007-08	395
2006-07	491
2005-06	503
2004-05[4]	502

[1] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[2] Data are provisional.

[3] Data are collected by the Home Office on behalf of HMIC. From 2005-06, assaults data were no longer published in the HMIC Annual Report. Current arrangements for the publication of these data are that they will be released as supplementary datasets to the HMIC Annual Report by Home Office Statistics.

[4] Data for 2004-05 have been revised since being published in the HMIC Annual Report, when it was stated that the figures were being reviewed in the light of possible changes in recording practice. Source data were previously populated from the crime recording system, but this was changed to populate source data from the self-reported HR system.

Police: Marketing

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leafleting households to provide information on the Policing Pledge in each of the targeted areas in the last 12 months. [302261]

Mr. Hanson: The cost to public funds of leafleting households about the Policing Pledge and their rights and entitlements from the wider criminal justice system in targeted areas is £234,000.

Police: Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average *(a)* pay and *(b)* pay-related cost was of employing a full-time police officer at the rank of sergeant or below in the most recent period for which figures are available. [302194]

Alan Johnson: The pay scales for a Constable and a Sergeant in England and Wales from 1 September 2009 are as follows:

	£
Constable	22,680—35,610
Sergeant	35,610—40,020

The average cost of employment (including salaries, National Insurance, pension costs and superannuation) of a police officer in 2008-09 was £54,300 per full-time officer. The detailed information required to calculate the pay related cost of employing a full-time police officer for each rank is not held centrally.

Policing Pledge: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department *(a)* provided in the last 12 months and *(b)* intends to provide in the next 12 months on promoting the Policing Pledge in respect of each medium of communication. [301793]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office provided £3.43 million in the financial year 2008-09 to promote the Policing Pledge, using posters—£781,000, press—£1.69 million, radio—£670,000 and online—£290,000.

In the financial year 2009-10, the Home Office is currently spending £1.9 million to promote the Policing Pledge and the rights and entitlements the public should expect from the wider Criminal Justice System using TV to the cost of £743,000, Radio—£322,000, press—£380,000, direct mail—£234,000 and online—£220,000.

There are no plans to pay for further promotion of the Policing Pledge this financial year.

The Policing Pledge has helped to contribute to the raising of public confidence from 45 per cent. to 50 per cent. in the British Crime Survey.

Presenting Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's presenting officers were appointed *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008 and *(c)* between 1 January and 31 October 2009. [301308]

Mr. Woolas: The role of presenting officer is not a specific grade but a function that can be carried out by officers at Senior Executive Officer or Higher Executive Officer level depending on the specific requirements of the post.

Without manual inspection of the individual records of the above officers, which would involve disproportionate cost, it is not possible to state how many presenting officers were appointed in the periods in question.

Stop and Search: Greater London

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stop and search actions have been carried out in the London Borough of *(a)* Brent and *(b)* Harrow under the powers in Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000; and how many records of such searches have been (i) checked to ensure that powers were exercised correctly, (ii) found to have been carried out outside the geographical area specified in their authorisation and (iii) found to have been conducted not in conformity with the authorisation criteria specified other than those relating to geographical area. [302130]

Mr. Hanson: Data relating to the number of people stopped and searched under s44 Terrorism Act 2000 in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) area are available on the MPS website and can be accessed via the following link to give the latest available monthly figures:

http://www.met.police.uk/foi/pdfs/priorities_and_how_we_are_doing/corporate/mps_stop_and_search_borough_breakdown_reportjuly_2009.pdf

In relation to the remaining queries, these are operational matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to comment on.

Terrorism Act 2000

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been stopped at the UK border under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* each of the last five years. [301238]

Mr. Hanson: Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) (as amended by the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001) enables an examining officer to stop, search and examine a person at a port or in a border area to determine whether they are someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

The use of Schedule 7 powers of examination is an important tool in countering terrorism and those who would seek to do harm to the UK and its interests.

Only examinations for longer than one hour are required to be recorded centrally. For the period specified the number of individuals examined for in excess of one hour were:

	Number of individuals examined in excess of one hour
(a) for the period 1 January 2009-30 September 2009	[1]1,773
(b) for each of the preceding five years	
2008	2,473
2007	1,918
2006	1,620
2005	1,430
2004	1,190

[1] As a mid-year figure this is provisional and may be subject to review due following data validation at year end.

The rise in the examinations between 2004 and 2008 reflects and is consummate with a period where the threat to the UK was assessed as severe.

The powers contained in Schedule 7 are kept under scrutiny by the noble Lord Carlile of Berriew, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation.

Tony Blair: Security

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure his Department has incurred on the provision of security for the right hon. Tony Blair in each year since 1997. [302044]

Mr. Hanson: It is the long established policy of my Department not to comment on protective security arrangements and their related costs for any individuals or groups.

The hon. Member will appreciate that disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

UK Border Agency

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which 50 parliamentary constituencies, ranked from highest to lowest, the UK Border Agency received the highest number of enquiries regarding migration cases that are *(a)* legacy cases, *(b)* non-legacy cases and *(c)* out-of-country visa applications in each of the last four years. [300326]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency has spent on promotional merchandise branded with its name and logo since its inception. [301305]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not held centrally in the Home Office and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids were conducted by UK Border Agency officials in each region in 2008. [301311]

Mr. Woolas: In 2008, the UK Border Agency carried out the following numbers of enforcement operations in each region:

	Number of enforcement operations
London and South East	6,968
Midlands and East of England	2,220
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	2,015
North West	1,260
Scotland and Northern Ireland	948
Wales and South West	1,300
Total	14,711

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff left the UK Border Agency and its predecessors on the grounds of *(a)* resignation, *(b)* retirement, *(c)* termination of contract and *(d)* redundancy in each of the last four years. [301313]

Mr. Woolas: The available information for UKBA and its predecessors over the last four full fiscal years is set out in the following table.

Permanent employee leaving reasons[1]

Year[2]	*(a) Resignation*	*(b) Retirement*[3]	*(c) Termination of contract*[4]	*(d) Redundancy*[5]
2008-09	161	81	284	0
2007-08	628	140	156	5 or less
2006-07	372	93	88	0
2005-06	431	168	76	5 or less

[1] Excludes agency workers.
[2] Fiscal year 1 April to 31 March.
[3] Includes early, flexible and medical retirements.
[4] Includes dismissals. Additionally as more civil servants are now employed on fixed term contracts, the number of leavers ending as contracts conclude, has increased (this accounts for 190 leavers in 2008-09).
[5] A small number of employees (five or less in each case) were made redundant in 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on the UK Border Force television programme in 2008-09; and how much it has spent on that programme since 1 April 2009. [301398]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Force is a commercial programme and production costs are therefore met by the broadcaster and the television production company.

The only direct costs incurred by UK Border Agency were travel costs for staff facilitating filming. The costs for 2008-09 were £936 and the costs since 1 April 2009 have been £5,215.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on internal communications in 2008-09. [301449]

Mr. Woolas: We are not able to quantify the costs of staff communications incurred across the UK Border Agency without disproportionate cost. The expenditure on corporate internal communications which covers a quarterly internal magazine and monthly e-bulletin and associated costs for 2008-09 was £136,357.

UK Border Agency: Departmental Records

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Banbury (Mr. Baldry) of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 332W, on asylum, how many files are in the UK Border Agency's overall file holding. [301935]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency currently holds around 9.9 million paper files in storage—the number of files in action within the business varies considerably on a daily basis.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff moved to a different post in that agency in 2008. [301310]

Mr. Woolas: The number of staff that moved to a different post within the UK Border Agency in 2008 is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Worker Registration Scheme

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were working on the administration of the Worker Registration Scheme on 1 November 2009. [301233]

Mr. Woolas: On 1 November 2009 there were 81 staff working on the administration of the Worker Registration Scheme.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

National Affordable Housing Programme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much is planned to be spent through the National Affordable Housing Programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [301554]

(2) how much was spent under the National Affordable Housing Programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last three years. [301555]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell's (Matthew Taylor) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report* column 329W which placed information on the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme expenditure in 2008-09 in the Library of the House. I will place expenditure information for 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the House Library shortly.

Indicative allocations for each region in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan which can be found on their website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

Allocations made to RSLs and other bodies by local authority area are published on the HCA website on a quarterly basis.

Departmental Contracts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with what companies *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(d)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy have had contracts in the last 12 months. [300435]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

(a) Communities and Local Government maintains a central record of its contracts. There are some 2,000 bodies on this record. These cover various types of organisations, including public bodies, charities, community organisations as well as companies. It is not possible to disaggregate the records to isolate only companies other than at disproportionate cost.

(b) The Tenant Services Authority has a central log of its contracts. These cover various types of organisations, including public bodies, community organisations, charities as well as companies. It is not possible to disaggregate the records to isolate only companies other than at disproportionate cost.

(c) The Homes and Communities Agency maintains a central record of its contracts. Since December 2008, when the HCA was created, there are some 3,400 bodies on this record. However, these cover a variety of organisations, including public bodies, charities, community organisations and others as well as companies. It is not possible to disaggregate the record to isolate only companies other than at disproportionate cost.

(d) The Homes and Communities Agency Academy has a central log of its contracts. It is not possible to disaggregate the records to isolate only companies other than at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303101]

Barbara Follett: The criteria used in determining the award of contracts is the "most economically advantageous tender". All tenders are advertised in Official Journal of European Union, the Department's e-tendering portal, or via Buying Solutions or other framework portal at no cost. A small number of tenders may have been advertised in specialist publications but this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Engagements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301154]

Barbara Follett: In their response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and Influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish on-line, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Recruitment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1121-22, on departmental recruitment, who was engaged by his Department to advise on and oversee the recruitment process for the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenants Services Agency; what the terms of the contract with his Department was; and what procurement process was followed in respect of the contract. [300510]

John Healey: Veredus Consultancy was engaged to advise and oversee the recruitment process for board members of the Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority following a competitive tendering process, carried out using the Department's guidance on procurement.

The terms of the contract issued to Veredus were consistent with the Cabinet Office's framework agreement to provide executive search services covering senior civil service and specialist posts, and with the tender criteria as issued by the Department. The basis of the contract was to support the Department in recruiting board members for the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority. All appointments were conducted using the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidance and all appointees were considered using the same criteria.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302715]

Barbara Follett: The breakdown of information in the format requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All departmental expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [302948]

Barbara Follett: Training is provided to Ministers and Special Advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to help them carry out their respective duties effectively under the "Ministerial Code" and the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers". Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/MinisterialProgramme/Table.asp

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302163]

Barbara Follett: The mechanisms covering staff who drive in the course of their employment for Communities and Local Government or one of its Executive agencies are as follows:

Communities and Local Government

Where Communities and Local Government staff need to drive their own vehicle as part of their official duties they are required to demonstrate they have a valid driving licences, appropriate insurance, a current vehicle excise disc and a current test certificate. General advice on road safety is available to all staff via the Department's intranet system and line managers are required to monitor compliance with this guidance. In addition, staff who claim for mileage expenses must certify they meet the necessary requirements. The Department does not operate a fleet service.

In addition to any appropriate notification of a road traffic accident to the police and/or their insurer, staff working for Communities and Local Government are required enter a report on the Department's accident reporting system in the event of a road traffic accident while driving on departmental business. Any formal investigation into a report of a road traffic accident would be carried out by the relevant police force.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

The QEII Conference Centre does not require any staff to drive as part of their official duties.

The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate request copies of an individual's Driver licence, insurance certificate showing use for business purposes, V5 and MOT certificate (if required) before they are permitted to drive for the agency. All drivers have been issued with a drivers handbook which includes information and advice regarding their vehicle, the driver and the journey. The booklet also advises what to do in the event of an accident. The Planning Inspectorate are piloting on-line training, which includes a module and quiz on 'Managing Occupational Road Risk' and this will be rolled-out to all staff. Training will be at regular intervals and completion can be monitored electronically.

Fire Service College

Staff working for the Fire Service College who requisition an official college vehicle are required to declare that they hold a valid driving licence; that they will take reasonable care when driving the vehicle; and that they will report any accidents that occur while driving in the course of their official duties. Such accidents will then be investigated.

Fire Service College travel policy requires staff to officially declare that, when using a private vehicle for official duties: they hold a valid driving licence, they have appropriate insurance and are authorised to use the vehicle for business purposes. Staff are not specifically required to notify the college of any accidents that occur while driving a private vehicle in the course of their official duties.

Floods: Cumbria

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date local authorities have to complete works necessitated by the recent floods in Cumbria; and whether under the Bellwin Scheme repair works started but not completed by that date will be eligible to claim full funding under the Scheme. [302371]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Bellwin scheme local authorities are required to complete all eligible works for which they claim Bellwin grant within two months of the incident. They have a further month from the end of this period in which to submit their claim.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which budget the £1 million fund to help those affected by the recent floods in Cumbria will be drawn; what the fund will be spent on; and what the timetable for such expenditure is. [302372]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The costs of the Community Recovery Fund following the Cumbria floods will be met from the departmental budget of Communities and Local Government. We are working with local authorities affected by the floods on how the £1 million fund should be used, but as local authorities are best placed to assess their local priorities it will be up to them to decide how best the money can be spent.

We are also in discussion with local authorities on the timing of the payment of the Fund. Our aim will be to make it available to local authorities as soon as possible.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be able to claim for capital expenditure on *(a)* road and *(b)* bridge repairs necessitated by the recent floods in Cumbria under the Bellwin Scheme. [302373]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities need not apply for assistance under Bellwin because they can submit a claim under the Department for Transport's emergency capital highway maintenance scheme to support capital expenditure required to carry out repairs to roads and bridges damaged by the recent floods.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which HomeBuy agents were appointed by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each agent in each such year. [300449]

John Healey: A network of 23 HomeBuy Agents (HBAs) were separately contractually appointed following competitive recruitment processes, by English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation to provide an advice service and to screen all applicants for low cost home ownership assistance from April 2006 to March 2009. The organisations appointed were:

Area	*HBA Name*
East of England	
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and West Suffolk	Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Essex	Moat Housing Society
Hertfordshire	Aldwyck Housing Association
Norfolk and Suffolk	Orbit Housing Group
East Midlands	
Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire	East Midlands Housing Association
Lincolnshire	Eastern Shires Housing Association
Northamptonshire	Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
London	
East, north and west London	Metropolitan Home Ownership
South east and south west London	Tower Homes / London and Quadrant
North East	
Tees Valley and County Durham	Nomad Housing Group
Tyne and Wear and Northumberland	Nomad Housing Group
North West	
Cheshire	Riverside Housing Group
Cumbria	Eden Housing Association
Greater Manchester	Manchester Methodist Housing
Lancashire	Manchester Methodist Housing
Merseyside	Plus Housing Group
South East	
Berkshire	Catalyst
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	Catalyst
Hampshire	Swaythling Housing Association
Kent	Moat Housing Society
Oxfordshire	Catalyst
Surrey	Thames Valley Housing
Sussex	Moat Housing Society
South West	
Avon and Gloucestershire	New Futures Partnership
Devon and Cornwall	West Country Housing Association
Dorset	Knightstone Housing Association
Somerset	Knightstone Housing Association
Wiltshire	New Futures Partnership
West Midlands	
Coventry and Warwickshire	Mercian Housing Association
Hereford and Worcester	West Mercia Housing Association
Sandwell and Solihull	Mercian Housing Association
Staffordshire and Shropshire, Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton	Mercian Housing Association
Yorkshire and Humberside	
North Yorkshire and Humberside	Joseph Rowntree Foundation
South Yorkshire	Yorkshire Housing/My4walls
West Yorkshire	Yorkshire Housing/My4walls

Table 2 illustrates payments made to the (HomeBuy Agents) HBAs.

(£)

HBA Name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Totals*
Aldwyck Housing Association	113,100	[illegible]7,400	293,996	664,496
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	226,800	525,600	922,757	1,675,157
Catalyst	389,769	813,900	513,072	1,716,741
East Midlands Housing Association	35,200	95,700	259,208	390,108
Eastern Shires Housing Association	14,400	13,200	140,664	168,264
Eden Housing Association	0	0	47,920	47,920
Knightstone Housing Association	78,300	231,000	544,185	853,485
Tower Homes/ London & Quadrant	832,299	722,700	297,825	1,852,824
Manchester Methodist Housing	40,000	277,200	326,174	643,374
Mercian Housing Association	119,605	439,220	617,650	1,176,475
Metropolitan Home Ownership	862,350	1,284,600	2,678,050	4,825,000
Moat Housing Society	750,000	960,300	1,675,387	3,385,687

HBA Name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*(£)* *Totals*
New Futures Partnership	23,783	628,514	580,226	1,232,523
Nomad Housing Group	10,000	155,700	136,500	302,200
Orbit Housing Group	117,313	339,900	253,833	711,046
Plus Housing Group	32,500	118,100	164,700	315,300
Riverside Housing Group	20,000	52,200	105,606	177,806
Swaythling Housing Association	333,224	931,607	657,314	1,922,145
Thames Valley Housing	207,732	811,800	185,200	1,204,732
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	78,750	176,250	85,452	340,452
West Country Housing Association	35,000	198,000	98,700	331,700
West Mercia Housing Association	27,900	207,900	318,176	553,976
Yorkshire Housing/My4 Walls	36,862	293,888	462,656	793,406
	4,384,887	9,534,679	11,365,431	25,284,997

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sums the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor charged to their public sector bodies in each of the last three years. [300440]

John Healey: For the last two years this figure can be can found in the HCA's annual report and financial statements, a copy of which was recently laid before the House. For the year ending 31 March 2007, derived from the financial statements of the HCA's predecessor bodies, the figure was £134,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which *(a)* central Government bodies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* public corporations the Homes and Communities Agency held balances in each of the last three years. [300453]

John Healey: Overall intra-government balances as at 31 March 2009, and the comparative information as at 31 March 2008, are disclosed in the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) annual report and financial statements 2008-09. The entities with which the HCA held balances in the last two financial years are listed as follows. The HCA was set up on 1 December 2008 and under merger accounting principals was required to prepare full year accounts for 2008-09 and comparison accounts for 2007-08 but not for previous financial years.

(1) Creditors

(a) Central Government bodies

31 March 2009

Audit Commission
HM Revenue and Customs
London Development Agency
South East England Development Agency
Transport for London

31 March 2008

East of England Development Agency
HM Revenue and Customs
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

(b) Local authorities

31 March 2009

Ashford Borough Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Bedford Borough Council
Basildon District Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Cumbria County Council
Essex County Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Gravesham Borough Council
Harlow District Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Hull City Council
Kent County Council
Lancashire County Council
Leeds City Council
Liverpool City Council
London Borough of Bexley
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Haringey
London Borough of Havering
London Borough of Newham
Luton Borough Council
Manchester City Council
Medway Council
Milton Keynes County Council
Northamptonshire County Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Sandwell Borough Council
Sheffield County Council
Southend on Sea Borough Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
Stoke on Trent County Council
Swale Borough Council
Wolverhampton City Council

31 March 2008

Basildon District Council
Birmingham City Council
Blackpool Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Canterbury City Council
Chorley Borough Council
Dartford Borough Council
East Lancashire County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Essex County Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council

Gravesham Borough Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Hull City Council
Kent County Council
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Bexley
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Newham
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Manchester City Council
Medway Council
Merseyside County Council
Milton Keynes Council
Newcastle City Council
Northampton Borough Council
North Staffordshire, part of Staffordshire Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Plymouth City Council
Rochdale Borough Council
Salford Borough Council
Sandwell Borough Council
South Yorkshire County Council
Southampton City Council
Southend on Sea Borough Council
Stockton Borough Council
Swale Borough Council
Tees Valley encompassing: Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Thurrock Council
Warrington Borough Council
West Cumbria
West Lancashire District Council
West Sussex County Council
West Yorkshire
York City Council

(c) Public corporations

31 March 2009

None

31 March 2008

CREATE MKSM

(ii) Debtors

(a) Central Government bodies

31 March 2009

Aylesbury Vale Advantage
British Waterways
National Health Service
Olympic Delivery Authority
ONE Northeast
Yorkshire Forward

31 March 2008

Arts Council England
Aylesbury Vale Advantage
British Waterways
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
North West Development Agency
One North East
Port of London Authority
Communities and Local Government Department
Yorkshire Forward

(b) Local authorities

31 March 2009

Blackpool Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Canterbury City Council
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Kerrier District Council
Lancashire County Council
Liverpool City Council
London Borough of Greenwich
Macclesfield Borough Council
Northampton Borough Council
Penwith District Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Vale Royal Borough Council
Warrington Metropolitan Borough Council
West Sussex County Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

31 March 2008

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Corby Borough Council
Cornwall CPD
Essex County Council
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Kent County Council
Milton Keynes Council
North Tyneside Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Slough Borough Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

(c) Public corporations

31 March 2009

None

31 March 2008

Land Restoration Trust

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which sites the Homes and Communities Agency has purchased from public sector bodies for development; from which organisations such sites were purchased; and how many such sites have subsequently been sold; [300434]

(2) how much the Homes and Communities Agency paid for each piece of surplus public sector land it purchased in each of the last five years; and for how much each site was subsequently sold. [300599]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency has purchased two sites since its inception on 1 December 2008. Elmcroft and St. Giles nursing home was purchased from West Sussex county council for £1.5 million, and

Bullpoint, a former naval ordnance depot in Plymouth, was purchased from Defence Estates for £1.4 million. Elmcroft and St. Giles nursing home has now been sold jointly with Southlands hospital for a total of £1.775 million.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the financial exposure of the Homes and Communities Agency was in each of the last three years; and to how many single counterparties of more than *(a)* £50 million and *(b)* £100 million the Agency is exposed. [300455]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has only been in existence since 1 December 2008, though its financial statements 2008-09 were prepared on a merger accounting basis giving full year accounts for 2008-09 and 2007-08. The carrying values of the HCA's financial assets are the agency's maximum exposure to credit risk. The carrying values for 2008-09 and 2007-08 can be found in the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) annual report and financial statementf 2008-09.

In the year ending 31 March 2009, the agency had one debtor in excess of £50 million and one further debtor in excess of £100 million.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the components are of the impairment charge referred to on page 74 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2008-09; [300522]

(2) what percentage of the asset writedown due to impairment of development assets referred to on pages 83 and 97 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Settlements 2008-09 relates to *(a)* land and *(b)* property assets; [300603]

(3) what percentage of the asset writedown due to impairment of development assets referred to on pages 83 and 97 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09 relates to assets previously held by *(a)* English Partnerships, *(b)* the Housing Corporation and *(c)* the Academy for Sustainable Communities. [300604]

John Healey: The main component of the impairment charge for 2008-09 referred to on pages 74 and 83, and the revaluation of development assets on page 97, reported in the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) annual report and accounts 2008-09, was a reduction in market value of the HCA's development asset portfolio due to the market downturn. The reductions in value were spread widely across HCA's numerous development asset holdings.

The HCA's records for its development asset portfolio do not include a breakdown into sub-categories of land and property.

Of HCA's predecessor organisations, only English Partnerships role and activities involved holding development assets, and the reduction in value of HCA's development assets related wholly to development assets inherited from English Partnerships. The reduction in value of its development asset portfolio reported by HCA for 2008-09 included, and was not in addition to, the reduction previously reported by EP for the first eight months of 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built with support from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor on *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield sites in each of the last three years. [300524]

John Healey: Information available on the number of Homes and Community Agency funded new homes by brownfield and greenfield sites is limited to 2008-09 and also to only some of the dwellings provided. In 2008-09, available information showed that 13,230 homes were provided on previously developed sites (brownfield), 5,240 on non-previously developed sites (greenfield) and 34,857 on sites which were not classified by type. The figures include both new build and acquisitions.

Information on the number of affordable homes provided through the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) for April to September 2009 were released by the HCA on 24 November.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities received loans from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years; and how much was provided in such loans in each such year. [300525]

John Healey: No loans have been issued to local authorities by the HCA or its predecessor bodies in the last three years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered social landlords received loans from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years; and how much was provided in such loans in each such year. [300526]

John Healey: Within the last three years there was one such loan in two payments, issued by the Housing Corporation. The two loan payments were:

Year ended	£
31 March 2008	78,000
31 March 2007	480,000

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of Homes and Communities Agency *(a)* debts and *(b)* liabilities in each of the next three years. [300527]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) debts and liabilities are reported in HCA's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09, which includes a forecast for future years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Homes and Communities Agency assets are available for sale; and what the book value of such assets was in each of the last three years. [300596]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency's development asset portfolio, for which the book value for 2008-09 and 2007-08 is disclosed in note 26 on page 83 of the HCA's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09, is available for sale and will be brought to the market in a phased and orderly manner. The equivalent figures for 2006-07 were shown on pages 85-86 and 118 in English Partnerships financial statements 2006-07.

In addition, Note 22 of the financial statement reports on the HCA's financial assets that are available for sale—these are stated at fair value for 2008-09 and 2007-08. There is no equivalent balance at 31 March 2007 for 2006-07 because these balances arise from a change in accounting policy in order to adopt, from 1 April 2008, new financial reporting standards on financial instruments.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much grant-in-aid funding from his Department was drawn down by the Homes and Communities Agency in each of the last *(a)* 24 weeks and *(b)* 12 months. [300600]

John Healey: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The following table shows the amounts drawn down as grant-in-aid funding from Communities and Local Government by the HCA within each of the last 24 weeks.

Week commencing	*(£)* *Drawn down within the last 24 weeks*
8 June 2009	33,456,069
15 June 2009	59,631,000
22 June 2009	49,825,639
29 June 2009	315,703,266
6 July 2009	27,000,000
13 July 2009	40,377,638
20 July 2009	34,611,720
27 July 2009	104,235,702
3 August 2009	52,666,812
10 August 2009	47,357,327
17 August 2009	52,500,000
24 August 2009	76,333,917
31 August 2009	66,598,644
7 September 2009	44,303,603
14 September 2009	56,797,638
21 September 2009	43,758,040
28 September 2009	132,773,863
5 October 2009	6,000,000
12 October 2009	32,000,000
19 October 2009	93,870,772
26 October 2009	132,012,676
2 November 2009	87,303,343
9 November 2009	26,100,000
16 November 09	22,671,000

(b) The following table shows the amounts drawn down monthly as grant-in-aid funding from Communities and Local Government by the HCA within each of the last 12 months.

Monthly	*(£)* *Drawn down within the last 12 months*
December 2008	261,310,107
January 2009	230,314,266
February 2009	287,142,801
March 2009	1,213,011,039
April 2009	215,189,763
May 2009	176,975,620
June 2009	420,159,883
July 2009	315,928,326
August 2009	228,898,056
September 2009	337,574,951
October 2009	272,540,294
November 2009	136,156,343

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was transferred from the Homes and Communities Agency to the Government Banking Service at the end of each of the last 30 days for which figures are available. [300601]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is part of the Government Banking Service, however it retains a commercial banking service with Barclays.

The following transfers were made from the HCA's commercial account to the HCA's account in the Government Banking Service, within the last 30 days.

	£000
21 October 2009	500
23 November 2009	1,500
26 November 2009	1,800
29 November 2009	1,100
4 November 009	1,000
6 November 2009	750
13 November 2009	750
17 November 2009	1,300

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Homes and Communities Agency's Single Equality Scheme. [300606]

John Healey: The HCA launched its Single Equality Scheme on 24 November 2009. A copy is available on the HCA's website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/commitment-equality-and-diversity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what business EP(LP) Ltd undertakes as a subsidiary of the Homes and Communities Agency; and if he will make a statement. [300607]

John Healey: EP (LP) is the limited liability partner for English Cities Fund (ECF). ECF is a Limited Partnership whose purpose is to show that high quality mixed use area based regeneration schemes provide viable, attractive and worthwhile opportunities for institutional investors in the medium and long term, alongside community benefits and environmental improvements.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many bad debts the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor acquired in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value of each such debt was; [300609]

(2) what the net cost to the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor was of each bad debt incurred against it in each of the last three years. [300615]

John Healey: In the year ended 31 March 2009 the Agency wrote-off 69 debts and wrote-back 70 debts (where monies had been received on debtors that had been previously written off). The net write-off was £265,000. The Agency also had to provide for a debt of £12.6 million after exercising its step-in rights to seize possession of development land previously disposed of.

For the year ended 31 March 2008, English Partnerships, one of the HCA predecessor bodies, incurred 27 bad debt write-offs and wrote back 103 debts. The net write-off was £126,000. The Housing Corporation incurred a write-off of £346,000, but this had been provided for in the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002.

For the year ended 31 March 2007, English Partnerships incurred 83 bad debt write-offs and wrote back 210 debts. The net write-off was £56,000.

Debts written-off include those debts that had been provided for in previous years and aged debts that had been inherited from predecessor bodies, including those inherited by English Partnerships (EP). Many of the debts written-off had very little monetary value (many are small rental balances inherited by EP from the Liverpool Housing Action Trust some years ago) and due to this, and also because it would not be appropriate to disclose individual debtors' details many of whom are private individuals, it would not be meaningful to provide a full list of anonymous balances.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of the sums owed *(a)* by and *(b)* to the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years; and how much of each amount is due to be paid in each of the next three years. [300610]

John Healey: The amounts owed by, and owed to, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and its predecessor bodies for the last two years, are reported in the Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09, a copy of which has been laid before the House.

For 2006-07, the figures are shown in the following table:

Year ended 31 March 2007	*£ million*
Sum owed by bodies to HCA and its predecessor	251
Sum owed to bodies by HCA and its predecessor	255

The financial statements also show the profile of debtor and creditor balances due within one year and after more than one year, where applicable.

The debtors balance due after more than one year as at 31 March 2009 comprises funds due in specifically agreed time-related instalments as well as funds due that do not have pre-defined dates of receipt. For those funds with specifically agreed time-related instalments, the following amounts within the next two years are due as follows:

By 31 March	*£ million*
2011	50
2012	44

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* management agreement and *(b)* financial framework in operation between his Department and the Homes and Communities Agency. [300614]

John Healey: A copy of the financial framework between the Department and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) can be found on HCA's website. There is no management agreement.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor paid in loans to water companies in each of the last three years. [300898]

John Healey: No loans were made by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) or its predecessor bodies to water companies in the last three years. Prior loans made to water companies were inherited by HCA from former development corporations and annual payments are being, and will continue to be, received by HCA up to 2053.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Homes and Communities Agency employees received *(a)* performance-related payments, *(b)* other taxable benefits and *(c)* benefits in kind in respect of the year to March 2009; and how much was spent on such payments. [300901]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

(a) The Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) website sets out that performance-related payments for 2008-09 performance year (running July to June) are still to be determined. However, in June 2009, the HCA paid former Housing Corporation staff the balance of a team bonus payment, which related to performance in 2008-09. This was paid to 251 staff and totalled £129,000.

(b) 234 employees received other taxable benefits in 2008-09 at an approximate cost of £717,000.

(c) 271 employees received benefits in kind at an approximate cost of £83,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each board member of the Homes and Communities Agency Academy has been paid since appointment. [300904]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency Academy Committee is a sub-committee of the HCA Main Board and is chaired by Professor Peter Roberts who is a member of the main HCA Board.

Professor Roberts' fees are paid in his capacity as an HCA Board member and are published on page 42 of the HCA Annual Report and Accounts. This is available in the House Library or can be viewed online at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/annua[illegible]ort-2009.htm

Payment to other Academy Sub-Committee members are at the flat daily rate of £325.54. The following table sets out payments to Sub-Committee members since the HCA's establishment on 1 December 2008.

Academy sub-committee member	*Gross payment*
D. Lamb	1,952.54
R. Bennett Casserly	325.54
L. Ceeney	1,464.93
P. Hetherington[1]	4,479.86
M. Khan	1,464.93

[1] Peter Hetherington's fee also include Academy work other than directly associated with the Committee.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the net value of assets held by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years. [300906]

John Healey: The net assets of the Homes and Communities Agency are disclosed in the Group Balance Sheet of the Homes and Communities Agency Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09, a copy of which was laid in the House.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09 contains comparative data for 2007-08. For 2006-07 precise comparative data cannot be provided. The net value of assets of predecessor bodies were provided in the Annual Reports and Financial Statements for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation. Copies of each of these reports were also laid in the House. Assets of the Academy for Sustainable Communities would have been contained within the Annual Accounts for Yorkshire Forward.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor spent on the employment of temporary staff in each of the last three years. [300908]

John Healey: Temporary staff costs for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and its predecessors for 2008-09 and 2007-08 are shown on page 75 of the HCA's published financial statements for 2008-09. The financial statements were prepared under merger accounting rules which (notwithstanding the Agency was launched part-way through the financial year on 1 December 2008) required full year accounts to be prepared for 2008-09 and for comparison accounts to be prepared for the preceding year, 2007-08, but not for years earlier than that.

The predecessor organisations for the HCA were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. For 2006-07, temporary staff costs for English Partnerships were shown on pages 81 and 111 of its published financial statements for 2008-09. Temporary staff costs specifically for the investment arm of the Housing Corporation for 2006-07 cannot be disaggregated except at disproportionate cost (however temporary staff costs for the Housing Corporation as a whole for 2006-07 were shown in note 5 of its financial statements for 2006-07). Temporary staff costs for the Academy for Sustainable Communities for 2006-07 were £163,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff were employed by the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency in each of the organisation's main areas of responsibility on the latest date for which figures are available. [301553]

John Healey: The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) published this information as part of the papers for its Board meeting on 17 November 2009. These papers are available on the TSA's website at:

http://www.tenant[illegible]vicesauthority.org/server/show/nav.14454

(see agenda item 6).

The number of staff employed by the Homes and Communities Agency in each of its main areas of responsibility is as follows:

Regional Delivery: 400 (Regional Delivery Teams).

Corporate Delivery: 248 (Delivery of Corporate Programmes—Thames Gateway, Growth, Decent Homes, etc, ATLAS, Brownfield Delivery, Academy, Asset Management, plus centrally run initiatives—PRSI, Private Finance, etc).

Corporate: 234 (HR, IT, Finance, etc).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Homes and Communities Agency properties there are in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area. [301557]

John Healey: A break-down of the distribution of the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) development land assets portfolio by region and by each local authority, is provided in the following tables:

Distribution of HCA development land assets by region and local authority[1]

North West	
	Number
Cheshire and West Cheshire	1
Chorley	9
Halton	13
Lancaster	1
Liverpool	16
Manchester	7
Preston	37
South Ribble	42
St. Helens	1
Tameside	4
Warrington	40
West Lancashire	10
Wirral	5
Regional total	186

West Midlands

	Number
Bromsgrove	2
Dudley	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	3
Redditch	11
Shropshire	5
Solihull	2
South Staffordshire	1
Stoke-on-Trent	1
Telford and Wrekin	102
Wyre Forest	1
Regional total	129

East of England

	Number
Basildon	149
Chelmsford	1
Colchester	1
Dacorum	24
East Hertfordshire	2
Epping Forest	1
Harlow	19
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	1
Peterborough	22
South Cambridgeshire	1
St. Albans	3
Stevenage	4
Welwyn Hatfield	21
Regional total	249

London

	Number
Barking and Dagenham	1
Camden	1
Croydon	2
Greenwich	1
Merton	1
Newham	3
Tower Hamlets	8
Regional total	17

East Midlands

	Number
Corby	6
Derby	1
Harborough	1
Leicester	1
Mansfield	1
Northamptonshire	40
South Northamptonshire	5
Regional total	55

North East

	Number
County Durham	4
Gateshead	2
Hartlepool	1
Middlesbrough	9
Newcastle Upon Tyne	2
North Tyneside	2
Northampton	1
Northumberland	5
Stockton on Tees	5
Sunderland	3
Regional total	34

South West

	Number
Bristol	4
Cornwall	7
East Dorset	1
North Somerset	1
Plymouth	10
Stroud	1
Swindon	2
Regional total	26

Yorkshire and Humber

	Number
Leeds	3
North East Derbyshire	1
North East Lincolnshire	1
Sheffield	2
Wakefield	1
Regional total	8

South East

	Number
Aylesbury Vale	5
Basingstoke and Deane	1
Bracknell Forest	14
Canterbury	1
Chichester	1
Crawley	57
Dartford	2
Dover	1
East Hampshire	1
Epsom and Ewell	1
Horsham	3
Isle of Wight	1
Mid Sussex	1
Milton Keynes	200
New Forest	2
Reigate and Banstead	1
Slough	1
South Oxfordshire	1
Waverley	1
Winchester	1
Regional total	296

[1] The HCA also holds a further inherited 102 community related amenity sites which have no development value.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Homes and Communities Agency has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits to it related to changes in taxation levels during 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [300436]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency HCA considers the potential impact of any relevant taxation change to assess its potential tax liability.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor paid in social housing grants in relation to *(a)* low cost home ownership, *(b)* social rent and *(c)* works to registered social landlords' housing stock in each of the last three years. [300437]

John Healey: The following table shows the amount of social housing grant paid by the Homes and Communities Agency and the Housing Corporation between 2006-07 and 2008-09 (three years) on Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO), Social Rent and works to registered social landlords' stock:

£ million

	LCHO	*Social Rent*	*Other*[1]	*Total*
2006-07	443	1,433	47	1,923
2007-08	427	1,552	50	2,029
2008-09	551	2,029	45	2,625

1 'Other' includes works to RSL stock.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many projects the Homes and Communities Agency has supported through community infrastructure funding. [300593]

John Healey: The Community Infrastructure Fund provides funding for transport infrastructure projects in the Thames Gateway, other growth areas and growth points. It is a dual-key fund with decisions taken jointly by Ministers in Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport, with the Homes and Communities Agency responsible for the day to day management of the fund. The second round of the Community Infrastructure Fund has allocated £300 million to 54 projects.

13 projects were announced at the Thames Gateway Forum on 28 November 2007, subject to their meeting deliverability and value for money requirements. 29 projects were announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) and the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 30WS, and a further 12 by myself and my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) on 4 August 2009. These schemes are listed below.

Project name	*Growth area/growth point*	*Region*	*£ million Allocation*
28 November 2007			
A127 Basildon	Thames Gateway	East	14.8
A127 Progress Road, Southend	Thames Gateway	East	4.7
A127/A13 Victoria Station and Plaza Junction, Southend	Thames Gateway	East	7.6
South West Canvey	Thames Gateway	East	12
Medway Bus Corridor	Thames Gateway	South East	13
A228 Ropers Lane to Grain	Thames Gateway	South East	10.5
Gillingham Railway	Thames Gateway	South East	1.5
Dartford Station	Thames Gateway	South East	Tbc
Northfleet Station	Thames Gateway	South East	Tbc
East London Transit Phase 1b	Thames Gateway	London	18.5
Rainham Bus/Rail Interchange	Thames Gateway	London	1.2
Greenwich and Woolwich foot tunnels	Thames Gateway	London	11.5
Canning Town	Thames Gateway	London	18
27 March 2009			
Cambridge Gateway	Cambridgeshire	East	3
Postwick Hub, Norwich	Greater Norwich Development East 3artnership		21
Ipswich central area transport improvements	Haven Gateway	East	3.45
New A12 Junction, Colchester	Haven Gateway	East	11.2
King's Lynn South Transport Major	King's Lynn	East	5.3
First Avenue, Multi-modal Corridor, Phase II, Harlow	London-Harlow-Stansted	East	3.58
A414 dualling, Harlow	London-Harlow-Stansted	East	9.9
Luton Parkway Station	Luton and South Bedfordshire	East	1
Waterside Sanvey Gate Junction Improvement, Leicester	Three Cities and Three Counties	East Midlands	1.85
Birstall Park and Ride, Leicester	Three Cities and Three Counties	East Midlands	2.75
A14 Kettering—Ramp Metering	North Northamptonshire	East Midlands	1.3
Northampton Modal-Shift Measures	West Northamptonshire	East Midlands	6.87
Northampton to Wellingborough Bus Rapid Transit	North Northamptonshire	East Midlands	5.3

Project name	*Growth area/growth point*	*Region*	*£ million Allocation*
Tottenham Hale Gyratory	Haringey	London	4
Victoria Way, Ashford	Ashford	South East	16.5
Urban Traffic Management and Control System, Aylesbury	Aylesbury Vale	South East	4.55
Milton Keynes Busway	Milton Keynes	South East	5.6
South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transit	Partnership for Urban South Hampshire	South East	20
Reading Station Interchange	Reading	South East	4.37
Junction 30 Improvement on M5, Exeter	Exeter and East Devon	South West	1.5
M5 Segregated Crossing, Exeter	Exeter and East Devon	South West	5.5
Plymouth East End Community Transport Improvements	Plymouth	South West	9.78
Wichelstowe Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, Swindon	Swindon	South West	2.09
Cole Hall Lane Bridge, Birmingham	Birmingham and Solihull	West Midlands	2.11
Icknield Port Loop, Birmingham	Birmingham and Solihull	West Midlands	2.87
Paragon Park, Coventry	Coventry	West Midlands	2.16
Sustainable Transport, Burton on Trent	East Staffordshire	West Midlands	3.3
A38 Grade Separated Junction at Branston, Burton on Trent	East Staffordshire	West Midlands	6.5
West of Worcester Bus Rapid Transit Corridor	Worcester	West Midlands	3.2
4 August 2009			
Gainsborough Transport Infrastructure	Gainsborough	East Midlands	1.85
Tees Valley A19 (T)/A66 (T) Network Management Strategy	Tees Valley	North East	3.975
Newcastle Quaylink (Q2) Link Road	Newcastle and Gateshead	North East	0.93
A19/Peterlee Centre	South and East Durham	North East	1.756
Chapelford and Bruche—Pedestrian and Cycle Accessibility	Mid Mersey	North West	1.76
Chorley Buckshaw Parkway	Central Lancashire and Blackpool	North West	3.3
North Manchester Metrolink Stations	Greater Manchester	North West	4
Shoreham Harbour Regeneration	Shoreham South Coast	South East	5
Chiverton Cross Junction Improvements	Kerrier and Restormel	South West	3.85
Teignbridge—Newton Abbot Infrastructure Package	Teignbridge	South West	2.4
Dearne Valley Improvement Package	Doncaster and South Yorkshire/Leeds City Region	Yorkshire and the Humber	2.34
Pedestrian [illegible]ute—Beechnut Lane to Stuart Road Pontefract	Leeds City Region	Yorkshire and the Humber	1.18

Housing Market

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what forecasts of housing market trends *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(c)* the Tenant Services Authority have commissioned. [300430]

Mr. Ian Austin: CLG does not commission forecasts of housing market trends relating to house prices, housing transactions, and new housing supply. It has however commissioned the construction of models for various aspects of the housing market including these. An example of this in recent years is the housing affordability model. Some information about it can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/nhpau/keypublications/research/affordabilitymodelguide/

The HCA have commissioned material from Oxford Economics, which includes their forecasts relating to the wider economy and the housing market, available via subscription.

The TSA have not commissioned any research into housing market trends. Where necessary they currently use publicly available information.

Surveys, sometimes commissioned, are an additional tool used by the Department and the agencies to garner information about the housing market, which can include what people think will happen going forward. An example is the Survey of English Housing, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/[illegible]prelimresults0708

Housing: Bristol

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average cost per unit of building a home on the Hanham Hall site in Bristol; [300429]

(2) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on the Hanham Hall development *(a)* in total and *(b)* per unit. [300523]

John Healey: Total spend to date by the Homes and Communities Agency at Hanham Hall is £4,697,232.

We are unable to provide estimates of the average cost per unit as this is commercially confidential information. The lead developer has not yet gone out to tender on the build contract and therefore revealing this information would prejudice the tender process.

Housing: Carbon Monoxide

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to require carbon monoxide monitors to be fitted in vehicle garages which are connected to domestic properties. [301642]

Mr. Ian Austin: The current consultation to revise part J (combustion appliances and fuel storage systems) of the building regulations includes proposals to require carbon monoxide alarms where solid fuel appliances are installed in homes. There are no current proposals to require carbon monoxide monitors to be fitted in vehicle garages which are connected to domestic properties.

In support of the current part J consultation the Department has published the report: "Study on the Provision of Carbon Monoxide Detectors under The Building Regulations: BD2754". This can be viewed via the link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/studycarbonmonoxidedetectors

Housing: Elderly

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to take steps in response to the recent findings of the Office of Fair Trading on the contracts signed by occupants of purpose-built owner-occupied retirement homes. [303070]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) are investigating the terms found within leases for occupants of purpose built owner occupied retirement homes, and has written to 26 retirement companies who operate in this sector setting out its concerns over terms providing for exit fees to be charged when residents sell, rent or otherwise transfer their properties. Following this, the OFT has now proposed a draft set of standard undertakings to be given by these companies which will mean that such terms will not be used in future leasehold agreements or enforced in existing leasehold agreements used in this sector. Comments on these proposals are also being sought from other interested parties.

Housing: Offices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of *(a)* buildings and *(b)* leases owned by (i) the Tenant Services Authority and (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency and their predecessors and used as offices was in each of the last three years. [300439]

John Healey: For the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and its predecessor organisations (English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities):

The value for buildings owned by the Agency for 2008-09 and 2007-08 are reported in note 20 on pages 78-79, of HCA's published financial statements 2008-09. See further below for 2006-07.

Annual commitments against operating leases for land and buildings for 2008-09 and 2007-8 are reported in note 40 on page 98, of the HCA's published financial statements 2008-09. See further below for 2006-07.

For the Tenants Services Authority (TSA) and its predecessor organisation (the regulation arm of the Housing Corporation):

The TSA did not own any buildings in 2008-09 and 2007-08; see below for 2006-07.

Annual commitments against operating leases for offices for 2008-09 and 2007-08 are reported in note 23 on page 102 of the TSA's financial statements for 2008-09. See further below for 2006-07.

For 2006-07, for English Partnerships (EP):

The value of buildings owned by EP were reported on in note 13 on page 84 and note 10 on page 114, of EP's published financial statements for 2006-07.

Annual commitments against operating leases for land and buildings for 2006-07 are reported in note 27 on page 93 and note 21 on page 123, of EP's published financial statements for 2006-07.

For 2006-07, for the Housing Corporation (its investment arm being the predecessor for the HCA and its regulation arm being the predecessor the TSA):

There were no buildings owned by the Housing Corporation.

Annual commitments against operating leases for offices for 2006-07 were shown in note 26 of the Corporations financial statements for 2006-07.

For 2006-07, for the Academy for Sustainable Communities:

The Academy did not own any buildings.

The charge for rent on offices was £107,000.

Housing: Prices

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his Answer of 23 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 13W, on housing: prices, what the average sale price of a new three-bedroom property in Yate, South Gloucestershire was in April 1991; and on what evidence he bases such an estimate. [302384]

Barbara Follett: The VOA does not compile average sales prices for any type of property, in any locality, for council tax purposes.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302753]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Kickstart Programme

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what applications he has received for funding under his Department's Kickstart programme; what funding has been made available; and if he will make a statement. [300258]

John Healey: 136 housing schemes have to date been announced as approved for investment under the Kickstart programme. Details of approved schemes and level of funding are posted on the Homes and Communities Agency's website, at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/kickstart_housing.htm

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants have been made to projects in *(a)* Thanet, *(b)* Dover and *(c)* Canterbury under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme in each year since its inception. [302134]

Barbara Follett: Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) grants have been awarded to Thanet district council, Dover district council and Canterbury city council as set out in the following table. LABGI grants are not awarded to specific projects and decisions about how to spend them are a matter for individual local authorities.

			£
	Thanet	*Dover*	*Canterbury*
2005-06	547,930	0	532,648
2006-07	0	0	0
2007-08	2,458,327	0	2,378,982
2008-09	314,325	0	298,898
2009-10	55,815	46,095	63,936

Local Government Services: Leisure

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities applied for funding from his Department to assist with funding for leisure facilities in each of the last five years. [301647]

Barbara Follett: We are not aware of any local authorities that have applied for funding from this Department to assist them with funding for leisure facilities over the last five years.

Local Government: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average employer contribution to the local government pension scheme was in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [302245]

Barbara Follett: The average employer contribution per member to the local government pension scheme in England in 2008-09 was £3,200.

This information is available in the statistics release Local Government Pension Scheme Funds England 2008-09 that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/pensionscheme/

Mortgages: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* Peterborough City Council area and *(c)* Cambridgeshire have taken up the Homeowners Mortgage Protection Scheme. [301994]

John Healey: Homeowners Mortgage Support is part of the range of assistance available at every stage to households struggling with their mortgage. The scheme encourages lenders to allow households who have suffered a temporary income shock to defer some of their interest payment, if this is necessary to make their monthly payment affordable. The Department plans to publish information in December on the number of households who have been helped through Homeowners Mortgage Support. Statistics from the Financial Services Authority show that more than 135,000 borrowers were benefiting from forbearance offered by their lender at the end of June 2009, an increase of 17 per cent. on the previous quarter.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many neighbourhood wardens were funded by his Department in each of the last five years. [302343]

Barbara Follett: CLG no longer directly funds warden schemes, and therefore no data is collected centrally on the number of schemes in operation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the effect of levels of empty property rates on the number of buildings that have been demolished in the latest period for which figures are available. [302310]

Barbara Follett: No estimate has been made.

Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term. However, we have listened to owners. In 2009-10 all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 are eligible for full relief from business rates—70 per cent. of all properties are under this threshold and, if empty, are not liable for rates in 2009-10. This temporary measure is providing real help to owners to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of empty property rates on the number of business closures in the latest period for which figures are available. [302311]

Barbara Follett: No estimate has been made.

Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term. However, we have listened to owners. In 2009-10 all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 are eligible for full relief from business rates—70 per cent. of all properties are under this threshold and, if empty, are not liable for rates in 2009-10. This temporary measure is providing real help to owners to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

Planning Permission: Appeals

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 14W, on planning permission: appeals, what criteria are used to decide whether an application for a residential development of over 150 units would be considered to have an impact significant enough to instigate a recovery of a planning appeal by the Secretary of State. [302650]

Mr. Ian Austin: The relevant criterion is

> "any proposal for residential development of over 150 units or on sites of over five hectares, which would significantly impact on the Government's objective to secure a better balance between housing demand and supply and create high quality, sustainable, mixed and inclusive communities".

Appeals are considered under this criterion and no additional criteria are used.

Royal Mail: Databases

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authorities spent on use of the Royal Mail postcode database and related services in the latest period for which figures are available. [300278]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Such information is not collected by Government.

Royal Mail owns and manages the Postcode Address File (PAF) and provision exists for the company to recover a reasonable charge for the supply of the data. Access is regulated under a licence condition which ensures that the data is made available to all persons or organisations on reasonable terms.

Travelling People: Grants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy and Traveller site grants were made in each of the last three years; and what the average amount of such a grant was in each of those years. [300998]

Barbara Follett: Grant for refurbishing existing and building new Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2006-07 has been paid through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant.

In rounds one and two of year 2006-07 56 grants were paid at a total cost of £14,265,752 making the average grant £254,745. For rounds one and two of year 2007-08 74 grants were paid at a total cost of £13,436,131 making an average of £181,569 per grant and in 2008-09 56 grants were paid at a total cost of £11,965,079 with the average grant being £213,662.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specialisms must be available on site before a hospital accident and emergency department can be designated as such. [302656]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Provision of services within a hospital accident and emergency (A&E) department is a matter for local decision-making by primary care trusts. However, for the purposes of performance data collection, the Department uses the following definitions:

> Type 1 A&E department: A consultant led 24 hour service with full resuscitation facilities and designated accommodation for the reception of accident and emergency patients;
>
> Type 2 A&E department: A consultant led single specialty accident and emergency service (e.g. ophthalmology, dental) with designated accommodation for the reception of patients; and
>
> Type 3 A&E department: Other type of A&E/minor injury units/Walk-in Centres with designated accommodation for the reception of accident and emergency patients. A type 3 department may be doctor led or nurse led.

Accident and Emergency Departments: South East

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital trusts in the South East have plans to reduce numbers of emergency attendances at accident and emergency departments by March 2010; and what targets those plans include for the reduction of such attendances. [302797]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for the local national health service to plan and develop health services to meet the needs of the local population.

However, the Department would expect primary care trusts to ensure that patients can access safe and quick urgent and emergency care services in the most appropriate setting.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to NHS ambulance trusts on the development of protocols for mutual assistance to cover areas at the border between trusts; and if he will make a statement. [301912]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not issued guidance specifically on the development of protocols for mutual assistance to cover areas at the border between trusts. Providing appropriate resources to meet local demand is a matter for the local ambulance trusts, and each trust should plan to provide appropriate cover in line with national response time requirements.

Guidance on the reporting of cross-border calls has, however, been published and is contained within the KA34 statistical bulletin for ambulance services. A copy of the KA34 bulletin is available at the following link:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2008-09

Attendance Allowance

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for changes to the attendance allowance to take into account the proposals of his Department's Green Paper on Shaping the Future of Care Together; and if he will make a statement. [303057]

Phil Hope: We think there may be a case for bringing some disability benefits and the adult social care system together into a single system, as a better way of providing support to all older and disabled people.

We will only make any changes to disability benefits if we are certain that by doing so we can better support disabled people.

We know that disability benefits are popular because they provide a universal entitlement which does not depend on where a person lives, they provide a cash budget which can be spent on the services people want, and they are often used to support lower-level needs that help people stay well for longer. These three aspects will all be important components of the new care and support system.

Whatever the outcome of these reforms, we want to ensure that people receiving any of the relevant benefits at the time of reform will continue to receive an equivalent level of support and protection, under a new and better care and support system.

We have ruled out bringing disability living allowance for those under the age of 65 into the National Care Service.

Blood: Cancer

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer networks *(a)* have met and *(b)* are on target to meet the milestones set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on improving outcomes in haemato-oncology cancer, published in October 2003. [301459]

Ann Keen: The majority of the key recommendations made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its 'Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers' guidance have been implemented by all cancer networks. Some networks have successfully implemented all the key recommendations. These are: East Midlands; Kent; Greater Manchester and Cheshire; North Trent; Yorkshire; Humber and Yorkshire Coast; North East England; and South East London.

However, we recognise that the other cancer networks have experienced difficulties in setting up specialist haemato-pathology services. The National Cancer Action Team is working closely with the Royal College of Pathologists [illegible] help networks develop plans and to support them in the establishment of these services. We hope that the guidance will be fully implemented across the country by December 2010.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions took place in England where a diagnosis of both breast cancer and *(a)* neutropenic sepsis, *(b)* febrile neutropenia, *(c)* diarrhoea, *(d)* nausea or intractable vomiting, *(e)* anaemia and *(f)* pain was recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database, (i) in total and (ii) broken down by (A) primary care trust area of responsibility and (B) cancer network area of responsibility, as recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database in each of the last five years. [300550]

Ann Keen: Statistics showing the number of admissions where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of breast cancer and; diarrhoea; nausea or intractable vomiting; anaemia; and pain have been placed in the Library. Data for neutropenic sepsis and febrile neutropenia are not available as there are no specific codes for these diagnoses in the international classification of diseases 10th revision, which is used within hospital episode statistics.

The information has been provided for England and for strategic health authorities (SHAs), from 2004-05 to 2008-09. On 1 July 2006 the number of SHAs reduced from 28 to 10. Information is not held on a cancer network basis. Information has not been provided for primary care trusts as the figures included small cell counts, which would have created a risk to patient confidentiality.

Caffeine: Young People

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the possible effects on the behaviour of children and young people of high caffeine intake. [301214]

Ann Keen: The Food Standards Agency advises that children and other persons sensitive to caffeine should consume products with significant amounts of caffeine (such [illegible] coffee and energy drinks) in moderation.

The Food Standards Agency advise us that they have no current plans to investigate the possible behavioural effects of caffeine in children, in part due to the ethical concerns around this type of research in children.

Cancer: Clinical Trials

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the level of access to clinical trials for patients with *(a)* lung and *(b)* other types of cancer; and if he will make a statement. [301628]

Gillian Merron: The National Institute for Health Research Cancer Research Network (NCRN) was set up by the Department in 2001 and has dramatically increased our ability to do clinical trials, including trials relating to lung cancer. Some 12 per cent. of cancer patients in England currently enter NCRN clinical trials every year. This is the highest national per capita rate of cancer trial participation in the world.

The Department, in partnership with Cancer Research UK, also funds 15 experimental cancer medicine centres across England focusing on early phase cancer trials. These centres investigate whether and how the latest discoveries and cancer treatments work when tested with patients so they can be developed for use in the national health service as quickly as possible.

Care Standards Act 2000

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosecutions under the Care Standards Act 2000 have not resulted in a conviction since 2004. [302523]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that, since 2004, CQC and its predecessor bodies, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection, has completed 40 prosecutions under the Care Standards Act 2000. 38 of these prosecutions resulted in a conviction. In the remaining two cases, a conditional discharge was issued.

CQC, as did its predecessors, also has the option to issue cautions as an alternative to prosecution, where this is considered the most appropriate course of action. A number of cautions have been issued over the same period.

It should be noted that these figures relate to prosecutions of adult social care and health care providers regulated by CQC and its predecessors. They also include prosecutions of children's social care providers up until 2007, which were regulated by CSCI until then. They do not include prosecutions which may have been brought by other bodies. This information is not held by the Department.

Contraception

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and at what net ingredient cost prescription items for *(a)* contraception and *(b)* emergency contraception were dispensed in the community in (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust area in (A) absolute terns and (b) as a rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 49 years old. [301359]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information has been placed in the Library.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust to achieve the target funding identified for it under the new NHS funding formula. [302470]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are committed to moving all primary care trusts (PCTs) towards their target allocations as quickly as possible. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, we have ensured that the most under-target PCTs benefit from the highest increases in funding. Over those two years, the allocation to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT will grow by £94.2 million or 12.1 per cent., compared with the national average of 11.3 per cent.

No decisions have yet been taken on the future rate of progress towards target allocations. The rate at which PCTs will move towards their target allocation in future years will need to be considered in light of a number of factors including population changes, cost pressures and the overall resources available to the national health service.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300202]

Phil Hope: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

Consideration is being given to further commercialising certain arm's length bodies and special health authorities that already operate on a trading basis. As yet, no decisions have been made regarding their sale.

The following list of major property assets in the ownership of the Secretary of State for Health are planned to be sold during 2009-10 and are aggregated for the period 2010 to 2014 as sales dates cannot be confirmed.

The sale price is given where a property has been sold. Where a property remains to be sold, the anticipated receipt is commercially confidential and therefore has not been provided.

2009-10

Property	*Description*	*Sale price (£000)*	*Asset value (£000)*
332 High Road, Tottenham	Offices	425	195
Land at Napsbury, St Albans	Open land	255	255
Blackbrook House, Fareham	Maternity home	750	750
Land at Woodside, Plymouth	Car park	190	132
Lakeview Close, Walsall	Health buildings	1,000	1,000
10 Palmer Crescent, Ottershaw	Residential	160	263
White Hart, Harrogate	Conference facility	2,240	2,240
22-38 Princes Road, Redhill	Residential	—	700
Eagle Cottages, Jarrow	Residential	—	354
96 Harrowdene Road, Wembley	Residential	—	To be determined
90 Capel Gardens, Pinner	Residential	—	To be determined
Garratt Lane, Wandsworth	Retail	—	268
Northern View, Bradford	Open lane	—	2,750
63-65 Bardsley Drive, Farnham	Residential	—	379
Land at Wellington Hospital, Telford	Open land	—	100
St Georges Road, Bolton	NHS Business Service authority property	—	550
Old Elvet, Green Lane, Durham	NHS Business Service authority property	—	1,000

2010-11 to 2013-14

Property	*Description*	*Sale Price £(000)*	*Asset value £(000)*
Land at Princes Road, Redhill	Car park	—	500
50 Scattergate Green, Appleby	Residential	—	79
Ropewalk, St Neots	Residential	—	250
15 Ambleside Avenue, SW16	Residential	—	536
Land at former Brookwood Hospital, Woking	Open land	—	To be determined
Farm Lane House, Plymouth	Residential	—	275
Halcyon, Plymouth	Residential	—	309
Oaklands, Plymouth	Residential	—	275
Land at Victoria Hospital, Worksop	Open land	—	470
Primrose Lane, Huntingdon	Health buildings	—	812
Land at Michigan Way, Totton	Open land	—	550
Land at Bucknell, Stafford	Open land	—	131
Warwick Cottage, Melton Mowbray	Residential	—	115
Fox Hollow, Dudley	Residential	—	80
14 Eachway Lane, Rednall	Residential	—	100
Land at Joyce Green, Dartford	Open land	—	To be determined
Land at Harwich Hospital, Harwich	Open land	—	823
St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke	Hospice	—	2,099
Harps Close Meadow, Sudbury	Open land	—	377
Part Little Plumstead Hospital , Norwich	Hospital	—	2,000
Part Harperbury Hospital, Radlett	Hospital	—	To be determined
St. James' Court, Balham	Residential	—	2,213
Land at Storthes Hall, Huddersfield	Open land	—	59
Heathway, Seaham	Residential	—	76
St Martin's College, Lancaster	Training	—	1,835
Melbourne House, Derby	Training	—	519
Land at Alexandra Hospital Redditch.	Open land	—	1,000
Part Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster	Health buildings	—	890
Land at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Shrewsbury	Open land	—	To be determined
The Dental Practice Board site, Eastbourne	NHS Business Service Authority property	—	1,000

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent per capita in *(a)* England and *(b)* Buckinghamshire in each of the last three years. [302152][1]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The amount spent per capita in total in England by all primary care trusts (PCTs) and by Buckinghamshire PCT, in each of the last three years, is shown in the following table.

	Buckinghamshire PT	£ *England*
2008-09	1,251	1,499
2007-08	1,198	1,428
2006-07	1,119	1,310

Departmental Working Hours

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of staff of his Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies work flexibly or part-time; and what his Department's policy is on making jobs available on a job-share or flexible basis. [301326]

Phil Hope: The Department's centrally held records show that at 1 April 2009, 0.3 per cent. of civil servants in the Department were in job share arrangements. 9 per cent. were working part time and 0.2 per cent. were working in term time only.

Managers also have the discretion to agree flexible working arrangements locally, without making contractual changes. These local arrangements are not recorded centrally so the actual number of staff working flexibly is not available, but is likely to be a large proportion of the work force.

Arrangements to work from home are made by local managers. These arrangements vary from occasional instances to regular home working. Records are not kept centrally about this.

The Department recognises that flexible working allows its staff to combine employment and a career with other responsibilities as well as meeting personal needs. The Department encourages staff to work flexibly through providing opportunities such as part-time working, job sharing, term time only working and the use of flexitime. It also provides the technology to allow staff to work at home on occasions and has in place specific arrangements to allow parents, adopters, guardians and foster carers of children under 16 (or disabled children under 18) to apply to work flexibly.

Most departmental staff participate in the flexitime work arrangement. The Department also encourages other flexible arrangements such as spreading working hours over nine days within a fortnight or four days within a week.

The number and proportion of staff the Department's Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies working flexibly or part time are shown in the following tables.

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[1] *[Official Report, 3 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 3MC.]*

Executive agencies

	Number of staff working flexibly or part time	*Percentage of staff working flexibly or part time*
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	[1]76	7.5
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA)	22	14.9

[1] All of NHS PASA's full-time staff, below senior civil service level, are entitled to work using flexitime. NHS PASA follows DH policy on flexible working, offering staff the opportunity to job share, work compressed hours, work from home and the use of flexitime.

Executive non-departmental public bodies

	Number of staff working flexibly or part time	*Percentage of staff working flexibly or part time*
Appointments Commission	10	15.2
Alcohol Education Research Council	2	66.7
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	1	5.6
Care Quality Commission	229 part time 1,113 in receipt of home worker's allowance	69.6
General Social Care Council	38	17.7
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	13	14.9
Health Protection Agency	[1]783 part time	19.3
Human Tissue Authority	2	3.7
Monitor	6	6.1
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	10	15.6

[1] The HPA does not have data that cover all aspects of their flexible working, however, HPA policy on flexible working includes part-time working, job share, staggered hours, annualised hours and compressed hours.

Drugs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what areas his Department has identified where it would be clinically inappropriate to substitute a branded medicine for a generic version; and if he will make a statement; [303020]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to assess the effect on patient safety of proposals to introduce automatic generic substitution. [303021]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is currently refining its proposals for the implementation of generic substitution and expects to formally consult before the end of the year. Patient safety will be paramount in taking forward the work on generic substitution and an impact assessment will be published alongside the consultation document.

General Practitioners: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average distance travelled for an out-of-hours GP appointment was in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each of the last 10 years; [302436]

(2) what the average waiting time for an out-of-hours GP appointment was in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each of the last 10 years. [302437]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

General Practitioners: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to GP services in Staffordshire. [301602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the Operating Framework for the National Health Service 2009-10 primary care trusts (PCTs), including those in Staffordshire, were asked to ensure that they achieve and maintain the minimum standards set the previous year, and also to make ongoing progress. This includes increasing the level, quality and range of services in primary care, particularly in under-provisioned areas; ensuring that general practitioner (GP) practices' opening hours reflect patient needs; that patients have guaranteed access to a GP within 48 hours and can book appointments further ahead.

North Staffordshire PCT is providing one GP health centre. The Midway medical and walk-in centre in Newcastle under Lyme opened to the public in March 2009. South Staffordshire PCT has procured one new GP health centre, which opened in Tamworth in March 2009. Stoke PCT expects to open its GP health centre in the new year in Hanley.

Generic Prescribing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been put in place to ensure effective treatment based on individual medical history is provided under proposals for automatic generic substitution of medicines; and if he will make a statement. [301407]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Clinicians should normally take an individual's medical history into account when making decisions on their treatment for reasons of best practice and patient safety. The planned implementation of generic substitution will not change this.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which animal studies of the effects of links between genetically modified foods and changes in the kidney, pancreas and spleen his Department has considered in the last two years. [301227]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency has sought advice from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) regarding what conclusions may be drawn from the following publications:

Malatesta et al., (2008), Histochem Cell Biol, 130, pp967-977

Kilic and Akay, (2008), Food and Chemical Toxicology, 46, pp1164-1170

The ACNFP considered this publication at its meeting in February 2009. It advised that it was not possible to draw any conclusions about cause and effect or to assess the significance of this report for human health. The minutes of this meeting are available on the ACNFP website at:

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet09/acnfpfeb09/acnfpmin190209

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which studies of intestinal damage in animals that have been fed genetically modified foods his Department has considered in the last two years; and whether he has made an assessment of the implications for *(a)* proliferative cell growth and *(b)* intestinal immune systems in humans of the findings of those studies. [301229]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency has sought advice from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) regarding what conclusions may be drawn from the following publication:

Finamore et al., (2008), J Agric Food Chem. DOI: 10.1021/jf802059w

The ACNFP considered this publication at its meeting in February 2009. It advised that it was not possible to draw any conclusions about cause and effect or to assess the significance of this report for human health. The minutes of this meeting are available on the ACNFP website at:

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet09/acnfpfeb09/acnfpmin190209

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which published scientific papers his Department has taken into account in the formulation of its policy on human consumption of genetically modified foods. [301230]

Gillian Merron: An extensive review of the science relating to genetically modified crops and food was undertaken in 2003 by the GM Science Review Panel. The panel's reports were published in June 2003 and January 2004 and these include extensive bibliographies listing the published papers and reports that were taken into account. These reports can be found at the GM Science Review website at:

www.gmsciencedebate.org.uk/

Health Services: Expenditure

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much public expenditure on healthcare was as a proportion of gross domestic product in each year since 1997. [301752]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The requested information is provided in the following table.

Public expenditure on health care as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP)

	Public spending as a percentage of GDP
Cash	
1997-98	5.3
Accruals	
1998-99	5.3
1999-2000	5.2
2000-01	5.5
2001-02	5.8
2002-03	6.1
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	6.8
2005-06	7.1
2006-07	7.0
2007-08	7.2
2008-09	7.7

Source:

Public Spending—Table 4.2/Table 4.4 HM Treasury PESA 2009

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how often the implementation group to monitor referrals from overseas has met to date; [301355]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance for transplant centres on the eligibility criteria of people from abroad; [301357]

(3) what steps he has taken at EU level to build capacity in transplant programmes in EU member states; and what discussions he or his officials have had with counterparts in *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* Netherlands, *(d)* Italy, *(e)* Portugal, *(f)* Malta, *(g)* Greece, *(h)* the Czech Republic, *(i)* Hungary, *(j)* Bulgaria, *(k)* Cyprus, *(l)* Slovenia, *(m)* Denmark, *(n)* Norway, *(o)* Bosnia-Herzegovina, *(p)* Serbia, *(q)* Croatia and *(r)* Gibraltar on the matter; [301358]

(4) what progress has been made towards getting agreement from devolved health administrations to ban all private clinical practice in the UK involving solid organs donated after death within the NHS. [301366]

Ann Keen: In response to the independent report on the "Allocation of Organs to Non UK Residents" published by the former Chair of the Organ Donation taskforce, Elizabeth Buggins, on 31 July 2009, the Department wrote to health Ministers in health administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to ask them to accept the recommendations. We continue to work with officials from these health Departments and to address all legal and practical issues to obtain their agreement to implement the recommendations

In particular, an implementation group comprising commissioners of transplant services and representatives from NHS Blood and Transplant and the transplant communities, has been established to consider each of the eight recommendations within the Report. The Group has met on three occasions, most recently on 23 November 2009 and considered how each recommendation should be implemented. Guidance on the eligibility of patients who are resident abroad is in preparation. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House on completion.

Departmental officials continue to work with representatives from all European Union member states as part of the implementation of a six year programme of work (2009-15) with 10 priority actions addressing the three key challenges in organ donation and transplantation around the quality and safety of organs across Europe; increasing organ availability; and making transplant systems more efficient and accessible. This will inform whether we need to widen discussions to encompass non EU states.

HIV Infection

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people living with HIV who have not yet been diagnosed; [303073]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who have *(a)* been tested for HIV, *(b)* been diagnosed with HIV and *(c)* developed AIDS in each of the last five years; [303075]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with HIV who previously resided in countries in *(a)* the EU, *(b)* the Americas, *(c)* Africa, *(d)* Asia and *(e)* Australasia; [303076]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with HIV who contracted the infection overseas in the last 12 months. [303077]

Ann Keen: In 2008, there were an estimated 83,000 people living with HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) in the United Kingdom, of which 27 per cent. (22,400) were estimated to be unaware of their infection.

Information available on the number of people who have been tested for HIV in each of the last five years is provided in the following table.

	Genito-urinary medicine (GUM) setting	*Antenatal setting*
2004	520,278	—
2005	628,948	508,634
2006	712,194	595,085
2007	849,194	647,867
2008	951,148	—
Total	3,661,762	1,751,586

The number of individuals diagnosed with HIV and the numbers of individuals who have had a first AIDS diagnosis in the last five years is provided in the following table.[1]

[1] Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2009.

	HIV diagnosis	*First AIDS diagnosis*
2004	7,849	974
2005	7,975	920
2006	7,608	828
2007	7,495	748
2008	7,298	611
Total	38,225	4,081

Data on HIV infections by previous country of residence are not collected. Data for 2008 are available by region of birth[1] and are shown in the following table.

[1]European classification is based on Unite Nations/World Health Organization regions.

Region of birth	*2008 (Percentage)*
UK	38
Europe (excluding UK)	9.6
America	5.9
Africa	41
Asia	4.0
Australasia	1.2

The number of people in the UK newly diagnosed with HIV in 2008 was 7,298 of which an estimated 51 per cent. (3,750) acquired their infection overseas.

Note:

Data are from reports received to end June 2009. Further reports may be received.

Source:

Health Protection Agency.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage HIV testing among *(a)* high risk and *(b)* other groups. [303074]

Gillian Merron: Reducing undiagnosed HIV is a key priority for the Department. We fund the Terrence Higgins Trust and the African HIV Policy Network for national HIV health promotion programmes for gay men and people from African communities living in England, the two groups at highest risk of HIV in England. These programmes include interventions which encourage HIV testing.

More generally, we introduced the offer and recommendation of an HIV test to all pregnant women as part of their routine ante-natal care in 1999. This has resulted in 95 per cent. uptake of HIV testing in this group in 2008. HIV testing is also routine in sexual health clinics.

We are also funding eight pilot projects to test the feasibility and acceptability of offering routine HIV testing in hospital departments, general practitioner practices and community social settings. Results from these pilots will be analysed to determine whether further work is needed.

We have also funded detailed guidance produced by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health, "Tackling HIV Testing: Increasing detection and diagnosis", published in October 2009. The chief medical officer has also written to medical colleges and faculties seeking their views on how best to increase awareness of offering HIV testing in all relevant healthcare settings.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trusts met his Department's target of screening all elective patients for MRSA by March 2009. [301831]

Ann Keen: By the end of March 2009, all national health service trusts had confirmed with their primary care trusts that they are screening relevant elective admissions for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in line with the Department's guidance. Screening relevant emergency admissions is being introduced as soon as possible and will be in place by the end of March 2011 at the latest. Screening admissions for

MRSA reduces the likelihood of a patient developing a clinical infection or passing it on to others in hospital who may be vulnerable.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to publish figures on the incidence of healthcare-associated infections in each hospital. [301882]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently reviewing surveillance policy for healthcare associated infections.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302739]

Phil Hope: The Department has not incurred any clamping costs either on privately or publicly owned land.

The Department's expenses guide states that it will not pay any penalty imposed under the Road Traffic Acts or any associated expense arising from a traffic accident or offence, neither will it reimburse any parking fines.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on public health of emissions from a functioning incinerator; [302956]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2209W, on infant mortality: incineration, what recent assessment his Department has made of the correlation between the presence of a functioning incinerator and the incidence of infant mortality in that area. [302957]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no recent assessments of the effect on public health of emissions from incinerators, or the effects on infant mortality.

The health protection agency (HPA) recently reviewed the latest research on the impact on health of emissions to air from modern municipal waste incinerators and published a statement in September 2009. It concluded that, while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects completely, any potential damage from modern, well-run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable. The advice is available on the agency's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1251473372175

The HPA also advised that studies of public health around modern, well managed municipal waste incinerators are not recommended, since any possible health effects are likely to be small.

Incontinence: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 104W, on incontinence: children, what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of provision for children's continence services in the last five years; and what plans exist to assess them in the next five years with particular reference to assessing *(a)* the extent of implementation of the guidance on integrated or joined-up continence services referred to in the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity and *(b)* the effect of the Continence Exemplar published by his Department. [302984]

Ann Keen: It is for strategic health authorities working together with primary care trusts and local authorities to ensure that adequate services are available, taking into account the guidance given in the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. The Continence Exemplar provides those designing services locally an example of how an integrated service might work with a child with incontinence issues but no other underlying condition. Future exemplars will show how services might work with children who have physical or learning difficulties as well as problems with continence.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been admitted to each hospital trust in Hampshire with *(a)* stab wounds and *(b)* gunshot wounds in each of the last five years. [301378]

Gillian Merron: A table providing information finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the external cause code related to assault by gunshot or sharp object has been placed in the Library. This excludes the knife and gun injuries which are classified as accidents, intentional self-harm and undetermined intent.

Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been admitted to hospital with (i) stab wounds and (ii) gunshot wounds in each region in each of the last 10 years. [301379]

Phil Hope: A table providing information on the number of finished admission episodes where the external cause code related to assaults by gunshot or sharp object has been placed in the Library. This excludes assault by gunshot and sharp object which are classified as accidents, intentional self-harm and for which the intent is undetermined. Reference should be made to the footnotes and the clinical coding when interpreting the data.

Learning Disability: Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* women and *(b)* women with a learning disability have received (i) breast and (ii) cervical cancer screening in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [301413]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of women that were screened under the NHS Breast Screening Programme and the NHS Cervical Screening Programme in England in each year from 1996-97 until 2008-09.

Number

	Women (aged 45 and over) screened under the NHS Breast Screening Programme	*Women (all ages) screened under the NHS Cervical Screening Programme*
1996-97	1,109,845	3,775,582
1997-98	1,179,658	3,905,936
1998-99	1,232,310	3,810,034
1999-2000	1,322,891	3,766,396
2000-01	1,298,752	3,633,479
2001-02	1,274,465	3,879,614
2002-03	1,347,378	3,689,147
2003-04	1,419,219	3,613,381
2004-05	1,477,844	3,638,868
2005-06	1,626,597	3,614,112
2006-07	1,642,755	3,370,846
2007-08	1,713,200	3,374,826
2008-09	[1]—	3,728,052

[1] Not yet available.

Source:

NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

The number of women with learning difficulties screened each year is not identified within the data collection for either screening programme.

Mental Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean waiting time for patients to see mental health specialists as (i) an out-patient first attendance and (ii) an in-patient admission was in each year since 1997. [302358]

Phil Hope: Data are not collected by the Department for in-patient or out-patient waiting times in mental health services.

Referrals by general practitioners to mental health consultants are included in the 18-week waiting time target for out-patients. However, most referrals are to multidisciplinary teams, not to consultants, and most patients are treated outside of hospital in primary care settings. The 18-week target does not apply to primary care mental health activity and this standard is not a robust indicator of access to mental health services.

For mental health in-patients, the Information Centre for health and social care collects hospital episode statistics on waiting times, but only for the 10 per cent. of finished admission episodes which are planned. Around 90 per cent. of mental health in-patient finished admission episodes are emergencies, and for which waiting times data are not collected. The data available do not indicate waiting times for in-patient mental health services accurately and are not used by the Department.

Mental Illness

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the potential effects on a person's mental health of trends in geographical mobility. [302030]

Phil Hope: The Department has no current plans to commission research on the potential effects on a person's mental health of trends in geographical mobility.

Mentally Ill: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1031W, on mentally ill children, if he will place in the Library a copy of the figures for the 2008 calendar year. [301757]

Phil Hope: This information is not available. NHS Prescription Services cannot supply exemption category data, e.g. children under 16, after December 2007 because the processes for pricing prescriptions and for capturing prescription charge exemption status has changed. Therefore, NHS Prescription Services cannot reliably estimate the data for each exemption category relating to the age of the patient from that date.

Mentally Ill: Prisoners

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department provides for mentally ill female offenders. [302328]

Phil Hope: Primary care trusts commission mental health services for women in prisons that are equivalent to those provided in the community. Most services are provided by prison primary care staff, with more specialist services provided by in reach teams. When prisoners mental health problems require them to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act they are transferred to appropriate clinical settings.

"Improving Health, Supporting Justice: The National Delivery Plan of The Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board" was published on 17 November 2009 and a copy has been placed in the Library. It includes plans to improve mental health services for offenders and a commitment that priorities for women will be described in a women's programme document to be published shortly.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that NHS services are fully funded during the recession. [301825]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are increasing allocations to primary care trusts by 5.5 per cent. in both 2009-10 and 2010-11, making over £8 billion in new resources available for the national health service. The Government have not yet taken decisions on funding for the NHS for 2011-12 onwards. That will be decided as part of the next spending review.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to ensure that the Cerner software system at Kingston Hospital NHS Trust does not encounter post-installation problems similar to those which arose at Barts and the London NHS Trust and at Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [301775]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: While not all problems experienced following the earlier installations in London were due to the Cerner Millennium system, initial experience with the new systems was not without difficulties. However, although the scale of the challenge in implementing complex information technology systems into acute trusts must not be underestimated, significant progress has also since been made.

The approach being taken at Kingston hospital NHS trust has been informed by the lessons learnt from the improvement programmes undertaken over the past year at the existing sites in London that are live with the Cerner system.

NHS: Redundancy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies are planned to be made by each hospital trust in the South East between 24 November 2009 and 31 March 2010. [302153]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for the local national health service to plan and develop health services to meet the needs of the local population.

NHS: Training

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of protected training time for *(a)* healthcare assistants and *(b)* nurses. [301827]

Ann Keen: Employers have a duty to ensure staff have the appropriate education and training to deliver priorities and services and this is supported through the NHS constitution staff pledges.

Employers make local decisions on the amount of time made available to allow staff to access continuing professional development such as training courses or learning opportunities. Continuing professional development needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses.

Nurses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department plans to give to the Royal College of Nursing's Nursing counts campaign. [301819]

Ann Keen: The Department does not plan to give any direct support to the Royal College of Nursing's (RCN) campaign. However, the areas outlined in the campaign are included in current policy. Ministers and Department officials and RCN officials meet formally and informally to discuss policy at all stages of development. We remain committed to involving the RCN as appropriate, and to seek their views and opinions on matters of importance.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the drop-out rate of student nurses; and if he will take steps to increase the level of support given to student nurses. [301823]

Ann Keen: The Department has been working with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) to reduce attrition from training programmes by improving the quality of education and training for nurses and other health professionals. The contract between SHAs and HEIs includes a financial incentive to reduce the level of attrition from pre-registration nursing courses, so that two per cent. of the funding for HEIs is reliant on meeting targets to reduce attrition. An additional three per cent. of the funding is reliant on effective education commissioning and innovation. This includes demonstrating the quality of the education and support provided to students. As part of the Education Commissioning for Quality project within the Department we aim to support further improvements in education commissioning by SHAs, including further refinements to the contractual incentives for HEIs.

The current system of financial support for student nurses is also being reviewed, primarily to remove the anomaly between the support available to degree and diploma students, but also to consider the best way of providing support to students. We are currently consulting on a number of options for alternative ways to provide financial support and expect to take a decision on a new system early in 2010.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the provision of *(a)* school nurses and *(b)* health awareness campaigns in schools. [301824]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly There are about 3,000 secondary schools. The 2008 NHS Workforce Census shows there were 3,645 qualified nurses in school nursing areas (headcount equivalent), an increase of 1,234 or 51 per cent. since 2004.

In relation to health awareness campaigns, we continue to support the uptake of the Healthy Schools programme in all maintained schools in England and 99 per cent. of all schools are currently participating.

Obesity

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward plans to extend Change4Life to include adults; and if he will make a statement. [301145]

Gillian Merron: In the "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives, One Year On" report (published April 2009) a commitment was made to extend Change4Life activity to reach at risk adults within the next 12 months.

We are planning to launch the campaign for adults in February 2010.

Obesity: Health Services

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many specialist weight management services there are in England; [301139]

(2) what recent assessment has been made of the adequacy of specialist obesity services in England; [301140]

(3) what the average waiting time was for referral to a specialist weight management service in the latest period for which figures are available. [301141]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold information on the number of specialist weight management service providers, nor the average waiting time for patients who are referred to a specialist weight management service. It is up to primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission weight management services according to their local needs.

The Department has not undertaken a formal assessment of specialist obesity services. However, earlier this year we produced a list of nine pre-qualified providers to help PCTs procure child weight management services. As part of this process, providers were assessed against agreed criteria. These providers cover a range of areas across England.

In addition, we would expect PCTs to ensure that all weight management services that PCTs commission are compliant with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Clinical Guideline 43: Obesity; and what support has been provided to assist *(a)* practitioners and *(b)* commissioners in implementing the guideline. [301142]

Gillian Merron: Compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guidelines is a developmental standard for national health service organisations and they are expected to work towards their full implementation over time using available resources. NICE has published a range of tools to support implementation of its clinical guideline on obesity including a commissioning guide on bariatric surgery and a costing tool to better assess the cost to implement the guidance locally.

As part of the implementation of our obesity strategy we have published several documents to assist both practitioners and commissioners to prevent and manage obesity. This includes "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: Child Weight Management Programme and Training Providers Framework"; "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A toolkit for developing local strategies"; and "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: Commissioning Weight Management Services for Children and Young People". These publications have been placed in the Library.

These publications refer to the NICE guidelines, so that people who are involved in developing strategies to prevent and manage obesity are aware of available guidelines in this area.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations Ministers in his Department have had from organisations on obesity policy and treatment in the last three years. [301143]

Gillian Merron: In the past three years, Ministers have received numerous pieces of correspondence on obesity policy and treatment from a range of organisations which include primary care trusts, local authorities, supermarkets, food manufacturers, trade associations, charities, non-government organisations, weight management providers, and academic institutions.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which obesity and weight management services Ministers in his Department have visited in the last three years. [301144]

Gillian Merron: Obesity and weight management are priorities that the Secretary of State for Health (SofS) and the Minister for Public Health cover.

Following is a list of obesity and weight management services that SofS and MS(PH) have visited between 25 November 2006 and 27 November 2009:

Secretary of State for Health (SofS)

MEND programme, Sobelle Leisure Centre, Islington—to see the delivery of the MEND programme

Grassroots—Community Food Enterprise (CFE), Community Centre, London—Change for Life visit involved filming SofS outside mobile food store and meeting some volunteers.

Minister of State for Public Health MS(PH)

Sure Start Centre, Jacqueline Du Pre Court Sheltered Housing Accommodation, Brighton—viewed Active for Life sessions in action, met residents and local workers and spoke to participants at an Active for Life Yoga Session.

Weight Management Programme, Ropewalks GP Practice, Liverpool—met staff and participants, met with family participating in programme.

Obesity in Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University Sport and Exercise Centre—met staff and participants.

The Kids Cookery School, London—tour of premises, met Hammersmith PCT Nutritional Consultant and toured school facilities.

Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre, West Midlands—met with representatives from all organisations involved in centre; met healthy eating, stop smoking and physical activity teams.

Weight Management Clinic, Brickfields Sports Centre, Devonport—met with patients beginning weight management programme; staff engagement, met with patients and staff to discuss public health issues.

Ashton Gate Primary School Kellogg's Breakfast Club, Bristol—part of the Change for Life campaign—met with staff and teachers that hold and attend the breakfast club.

Pompey Study and Beneficial Centre, Portsmouth—met the Portsmouth Health Trainers and the children involved in "Kick-start Health' activities relating to healthy eating.

Royal Surrey County Hospital, Surrey—visited the DAFNE (Dose Adjustment for Normal Eating) diet course for people with type 1 diabetes and talk about the trust's obesity service bid.

Cycling town/city—Cycle path scheme, Southend—visited three services: a cycle path scheme outside Southend High School. The scheme is an example of how Southend is encouraging cycling by creating a network of cycle paths; Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust—Cycling initiatives—short tour to demonstrate the planned increase in the number of cycle spaces; and Earls Hall School—Bike it scheme—Bikeability scheme Level 1 demonstration and Go ride demonstration.

Community School in Swindon to visit MEND, (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition... Do It!), 7 to 13-year-old child and family weight management programme. To meet Emma Creighton the Swindon MEND programme manager, who will talk about the MEND programme and introduce the Minister to MEND staff and families taking part in the course.

Patients: Per Capita Costs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net expenditure per 100,000 unified weighted population was for each primary care trust on treatment for *(a)* cancer and tumours and *(b)* mental health in each year since 2003-04. [302479]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients who applied for free prescriptions in the last 12 months specified cancer on their claim for an exemption certificate; and if he will make a statement. [302322]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Cancer patients were able to apply for medical exemption certificates (which entitle them to exemption from prescription charges) from the end of January 2009, although these certificates were not valid until 1 April 2009. From this date until 23 November 2009, the number of valid prescription charge certificate applications processed by NHS Business Services Authority in England, for cancer patients resident in England, where cancer was the only medical condition ticked on the FP92A application form, was almost 70,000.

Screening

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of women were provided with the result of a cervical screening test within 14 days in the latest period for which figures are available; [301884]

(2) what steps he is taking to increase the cervical cancer screening participation rate among women in the 25 to 35 years age group. [302405]

Ann Keen: Under the national health service Cervical Screening programme, test results were available for 21.4 per cent. of women within two weeks in 2008-09. For the same period, test results were available within four weeks for 65.5 per cent. of women.

The Cancer Reform Strategy (2007) said that all women should receive the results of their cervical screening test within 2 weeks by 2010. Advice on achieving the 14-day turnaround time was issued to the cervical screening service in April 2008.

NHS Improvement has since been working with 10 local screening programmes to streamline the whole pathway from initial test to getting the results using Lean processes. So far, the project has been a success, and a second wave of sites is due to begin in early 2010.

In 2008-09, for the first time since 2002, coverage rates across England increased, with this increase being most prominent among 25 to 49-year-olds. As cervical screening coverage had been falling steadily in women aged 25 to 35 for some years, NHS Cancer Screening programmes commissioned the Improvement Foundation to undertake work at a local level to target this age group. The Improvement Foundation has been working with six primary care trusts to look into ways in which cervical screening uptake can be improved in women under 35. The lessons learned from this project, which is currently being evaluated, will be rolled out across the cervical screening service if successful.

We will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the Office for National Statistics/NHS Information Centre for health and social care annual cervical screening programme statistical bulletin.

NHS Cancer Screening programmes have already produced posters specifically targeting women in the age range of 25 to 35.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the outcomes of his Department's consultation on ordinary residence guidance before 1 January 2010. [302525]

Phil Hope: We intend to publish the outcomes of the consultation on ordinary residence guidance early in the new year.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the financial position of South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [302100]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has assessed South London Healthcare NHS Trust as financially 'underperforming' in the results of The NHS Performance Framework for Quarter 1 for 2009-10.

The Department will be seeking assurance that strategic health authority and primary care trust commissioners have taken appropriate steps to engage with those organisations categorised as being 'underperforming'.

Tobacco

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the use of each smokeless tobacco product which is *(a)* legally and *(b)* illegally available; [301621]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to seek to reduce the health effects of tobacco products on those adults who continue to use them; [301622]

(3) if he will commission a full scientific review of the effects on health of tobacco products which are *(a)* smoked and *(b)* not smoked for the purposes of developing his Department's planned tobacco control strategy; and if he will make a statement; [301623]

(4) what subjects he plans to include in his Department's tobacco control strategy. [301624]

Gillian Merron: The Government will publish a new tobacco control strategy before the end of this year. This strategy will include action to:

stop the inflow of young people being recruited as smokers

assist smokers to quit

protect families and communities

The strategy will include plans to reduce harms to health caused by tobacco use.

The Department has not commissioned specific research into the harms of smoked and smokeless tobacco, as the evidence base is already extensive. On smokeless tobacco, we have given particular consideration to the 2008 report of the European Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks titled "Health Effects of Smokeless Tobacco Products".

The supply and marketing of certain forms of smokeless tobacco is prohibited by a European directive. While smokeless tobacco is not used extensively across the population, the Department is able to monitor use through surveys that compare smokeless tobacco use in the UK compared to other countries. In addition, the

Department is working in partnership with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services to enhance the enforcement of smokeless tobacco products with respect tobacco legislation and the payment of relevant taxes and duties.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will commission research on the effects of the introduction of snus into the UK market on the incidence of smoking-associated diseases; [302839]

(2) what research his Department has conducted on the effects of the introduction of snus into the UK market on *(a)* the level of smoking cessation, *(b)* the incidence of smoking-related diseases and *(c)* the prevalence of cigarette smoking; [302840]

(3) pursuant to the oral answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 387-88, on smoking cessation, what the evidential basis was for his comments on the findings of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks that the benefits of smokeless tobacco products outweigh the risks for those switching to smokeless tobacco from conventional tobacco. [302843]

Ann Keen: The marketing and supply of oral smokeless tobacco is prohibited across the European Union, including in the United Kingdom.

The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR), an official independent committee that provides the European Commission with scientific advice, has considered in detail the health effects of smokeless tobacco products. That committee concluded in their 2008 report "Health Effects of Smokeless Tobacco Products" that:

> Smokeless tobacco products (STP) are addictive and their use is hazardous to health. STP contain various levels of toxic substances. Evidence on the effectiveness of STP as a smoking cessation aid is insufficient, and relative trends in progression from STP into and from smoking differ between countries. It is thus not possible to extrapolate the patterns of tobacco use from one country where oral tobacco is available to other countries due to societal and cultural differences (p. 12).

The Department has considered the SCENIHR report carefully and believe the risks of promoting the use of smokeless tobacco are significant.

Furthermore, pursuant to the hon. Member's statement during health oral answers of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 387, the World Health Organization does not endorse the use of snus, or any other smokeless tobacco product, as a harm reduction strategy.

We will therefore continue to encourage tobacco users to use safer means to stop, including licensed nicotine replacement medicines.

Given the risks of using smokeless tobacco, the Department has not undertaken any research into the impacts of snus in the UK, and has no plans to commission any such research in the future.

Wycombe Hospital: Childbirth

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies have been delivered at *(a)* Wycombe Hospital and *(b)* Stoke Mandeville Hospital in each month since January 2006. [302151]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many babies have been delivered at (a) Wycombe Hospital and (b) Stoke Mandeville Hospital in each month since January 2006. (302151)

Figures for births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

The table below shows the number of live births by month in 2006 and 2007 for the two hospitals requested, according to registration data. For 2008, the total number of live births in each hospital during the year is provided, as births by month are not yet available for 2008.

Live births occurring in selected hospitals, 2006-08

	Wycombe hospital			*Stoke Mandeville hospital*		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
January	225	217	—	205	198	—
February	229	188	—	187	180	—
March	231	207	—	212	203	—
April	216	223	—	224	241	—
May	220	215	—	226	201	—
June	203	216	—	223	214	—
July	235	211	—	221	236	—
August	236	260	—	233	251	—
September	238	200	—	225	227	—
October	243	251	—	245	215	—
November	217	212	—	204	217	—
December	199	174	—	213	212	—
Total	2,692	2,574	2,728	2,618	2,595	2,744

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies of individuals in each age group there were in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [302534]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service is responsible for reporting on insolvent individuals in England and Wales only, therefore it is not possible to provide an answer to parts *(c)* and *(d)* of the question.

In answer to parts *(a)* and *(b)*, the number of bankruptcies by age group and region can be seen in tables 1 to 5.

Table 1: Bankruptcies in 2004 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
Unknown area	260	115	514	532	376	185	48

Table 1: Bankruptcies in 2004 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
East Midlands	151	219	710	724	424	226	56
East of England	188	292	1,072	1,146	673	375	103
London	555	166	860	1,141	674	342	112
North East	161	131	422	463	270	155	53
North West	246	262	875	1055	698	387	126
South East	372	386	1,471	1,671	966	541	147
South West	272	434	1,233	1,272	723	431	114
Wales	84	118	382	428	249	165	61
West Midlands	218	271	858	920	570	297	74
Yorkshire and the Humber	255	254	922	1,025	583	301	89

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (increasing from 92.3 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Table 2: Bankruptcies in 2005 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
Unknown area	273	151	589	675	405	188	48
East Midlands	276	290	892	970	585	326	107
East of England	274	410	1,423	1,605	932	528	174
London	547	221	1,208	1,557	1,078	495	220
North East	328	169	498	523	364	202	72
North West	417	303	1,035	1,318	884	537	166
South East	478	528	1,856	2,216	1,301	741	219
South West	367	570	1,725	1,842	1,036	631	173
Wales	136	160	475	532	344	207	52
West Midlands	312	329	1,094	1,151	743	424	109
Yorkshire and the Humber	312	367	1,049	1,201	775	428	130

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (increasing from 92.3 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Table 3: Bankruptcies in 2006 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
Unknown area	262	164	636	802	475	252	68
East Midlands	332	326	1,186	1,306	840	477	130
East of England	306	488	1,774	2,064	1,349	775	262
London	472	214	1,448	2,204	1,427	725	281
North East	310	234	739	801	539	275	115
North West	575	379	1,572	1,951	1,261	798	305
South East	665	598	2,436	2,820	1,753	1,005	345
South West	317	633	2,229	2,353	1,398	863	260
Wales	210	196	695	781	507	294	110
West Midlands	425	379	1,448	1,699	1,015	608	196
Yorkshire and the Humber	426	395	1,376	1,751	1,080	590	190

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (increasing from 92.3 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Table 4: Bankruptcies in 2007 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
Unknown area	240	114	548	700	448	220	66
East Midlands	351	271	1,253	1,540	1,023	561	204
East of England	292	361	1,768	2,198	1,435	811	279
London	409	170	1,391	2,069	1,478	800	311
North East	382	191	844	923	619	350	125
North West	678	328	1,565	2,191	1,467	890	337

Table 4: Bankruptcies in 2007 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
South East	668	419	2,333	2,909	1,896	1,042	377
South West	356	458	2,063	2,310	1,443	827	287
Wales	280	149	699	890	505	344	104
West Midlands	482	314	1,551	1,738	1,093	581	197
Yorkshire and the Humber	382	312	1,481	1,793	1,121	645	217

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (increasing from 92.3 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Table 5. Bankruptcies in 2008 by region and age group

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Unknown age*	*<=24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*
Unknown area	197	110	526	672	438	243	67
East Midlands	402	272	1,456	1,779	1,100	581	220
East of England	266	331	1,867	2,331	1,468	805	278
London	424	128	1,292	2,033	1,562	761	297
North East	414	226	910	1,104	724	350	125
North West	686	311	1,829	2,351	1,718	915	322
South East	638	369	2,146	2,762	2,038	1,019	355
South West	407	394	1,974	2,448	1,594	895	325
Wales	211	156	819	978	656	364	140
West Midlands	513	297	1,498	1,889	1,196	631	209
Yorkshire and the Humber	309	331	1,623	2,019	1,422	692	257

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (increasing from 92.3 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008).

British Petroleum

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates representatives of his Department and its predecessors have met executives of BP plc in each year since 2002. [301575]

Mr. McFadden: Representatives of the Department regularly meet with a range of companies. However, the Department does not have a central record of the dates when meetings with executives of BP plc have taken place. To separately identify them over the specified period of time would incur disproportionate cost.

Broadband

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding is available to provide access to broadband in local community facilities. [301520]

Mr. Timms: This Department has no dedicated funding set aside to provide access to broadband in local community facilities. Working with partners, however, it does help provide access to the internet in local communities. For example, this Department, with DCSF, provides funds of up to £10 million per year to UK Online Centres. These centres use a variety of facilities, with 82 per cent. located in areas of high deprivation. These funds provide people with help and support to access and use computers and the internet.

Broadband: Herefordshire

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of residents in Herefordshire have access to a broadband with a speed of *(a)* 0 to two, *(b)* three to five, *(c)* six to 10, *(d)* 11 to 15, *(e)* 16 to 20, *(f)* 21 to 25, *(g)* 26 to 30, *(h)* 31 to 35, *(i)* 36 to 40, *(j)* 41 to 45, *(k)* 46 to 50, *(l)* 51 to 55 and *(m)* 55 Mbps and above. [301518]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

Business: Fraud

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the risk to the directors of defunct companies of identity theft from the data held on the Companies House register. [301731]

Ian Lucas: The particulars of directors held on the public record under the Companies Act 2006 are the minimum necessary to ensure that third parties, including enforcement agencies, can hold directors to account. The information is needed equally for the directors of defunct companies as their responsibilities do not cease when a company is struck off or dissolved.

Business: Government Assistance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in each location in each region of the country have received assistance from their Regional Development Agency's small business loan fund; and how much on average each such business received. [301090]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no product called a "small business loan fund" offered by the Regional Development Agencies.

Regional Development Agencies offer a range of measures to assist businesses. Transition Loan Funds are made available by Regional Development Agencies to viable small and medium size businesses that are having difficulty gaining access to credit.

The Transition Loan Funds are part of the Regional Loan Funds.

These loans make up part of the wider support offer RDAs are offering to businesses.

Business: Hungary

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will hold discussions with the government of Hungary on improving procedures in that country for the awarding of private and public sector contracts to businesses from the UK and other EU member states. [302509]

Ian Lucas: I have no immediate plans to meet with my Hungarian counterparts but will discuss these matters with them as and when the opportunities arise. The British ambassador in Budapest, in collaboration with the ambassadors of the countries responsible for the majority of investment in Hungary, has engaged frequently with the Government of Hungary on these and other issues. He will continue to do so.

Company Liquidations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many liquidations which commenced *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 or more years ago have not yet been finalised. [300787]

Ian Lucas: Companies House records show the number of liquidation proceedings started and not yet finalised, are as follows:

	Number
(a) Five years or more	19,683
(b) 10 years or more	15,892
(c) 15 years or more	14,088
(d) 20 years or more	6,629

In practice, it is likely that the number of liquidation processes started during this time and remain ongoing is significantly lower than this. It would be unusual for an individual process to continue for as long 10 years or more. The implication is that, in a significant number of cases, the insolvency practitioner may not have notified Companies House that a process is complete.

According to the case database maintained by the Insolvency Service, there are:

(a) 103 compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made more than five years ago;

(b) 16 compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made more than 10 years ago;

(c) nine compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made more than 15 years ago; and

(d) one compulsory liquidation where the insolvency order was made more than 20 years ago, where the official receiver has not applied for release as liquidator.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 786-87W, on departmental aviation, how much his Department has spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* standard class air travel by (i) the Secretary of State, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) departmental officials since 3 October 2008. [301605]

Mr. McFadden: The amount spent on flights by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform including the ex Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) part of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) for the period from 3 October 2008 to 7 November 2009 was:

	£
Economy/business class	3,019,448.53
First class	464,440.49

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. The Department does not hold separate records of the travel undertaken by Ministers as opposed to those undertaken by civil servants, to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Cabinet Office provides an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008/09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations (i) he and (ii) the Secretary of State met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301163]

Mr. McFadden: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish on-line, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Secretary of State has presented an official gift which was manufactured overseas in the last 12 months. [302572]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State tries whenever possible to provide his gifts from the House of Lords gift shop.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of his Department travelled abroad with the Secretary of State on each foreign visit he has made since his appointment; and at what cost for each visit. [301644]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office published on 16 July a list of all overseas visits undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel 2008 2009.pdf.

The cost of accompanying private office staff is included in the annual published cost of all Ministers' visits overseas.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Higher and Further Education: Radicalism

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many instances of extremism have been recorded as taking place on *(a)* university premises and *(b)* further education college premises in each of the last three years. [302499]

Mr. Lammy: For operational reasons, we cannot release this information. Universities and colleges work closely with their local police forces and information about individuals or groups of concern is shared and recorded as appropriate.

Higher Education: Antisemitism

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings have been held of the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism; and what issues were discussed at each meeting. [302497]

Mr. Lammy: There have been two meetings of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' 'Antisemitism and Higher Education' Group. The first meeting took place in April and discussed antisemitic incident monitoring in higher education (HE), and how this was reported by students. The second meeting took place in November and included updates from members of the Group on their wider work on equality and diversity, including tackling antisemitism, and on the recent guidance for students, 'A Student's Guide to Antisemtism on Campus', produced by the Union of Jewish Students and the Community Security Trust. Both meetings resulted in practical agreed actions which are being progressed by HE stakeholders and the Jewish community.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions Ministers have had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on its review of teaching funding consultation. [302500]

Mr. Lammy: Ministers have had no such discussions. The establishment of the Review is, however, consistent with the principles that we announced in Higher Ambitions, published on 3 November.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what average per-student teaching grant was received by each higher education institution in England for *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK EU undergraduate students in the latest period for which figures are available. [302501]

Mr. Lammy: For 2009/10 the amount of teaching grant per student can be calculated as follows (see notes in table).

	£
Anglia Ruskin University	4,662
Aston University	4,304
University of Bath	4,265
Bath Spa University	3,981
University of Bedfordshire	4,345
Birkbeck College	4,753
University of Birmingham	4,879
Birmingham City University	4,579
University College Birmingham	4,935
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln	4,221
University of Bolton	5,189
The Arts University College at Bournemouth	4,400
Bournemouth University	4,170
University of Bradford	4,683
University of Brighton	4,494
University of Bristol	5,589
Brunel University	4,121
Buckinghamshire New University	4,218
University of Cambridge	4,784
Canterbury Christ Church University	4,016
University of Central Lancashire	4,753
Central School of Speech and Drama	4,508
University of Chester	4,073
University of Chichester	4,069
City University, London	4,460
Courtauld Institute of Art	3,032
Coventry University	4,345
University for the Creative Arts	4,490
University of Cumbria	4,781
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	4,738
De Montfort University	4,383
University of Derby	4,345
University of Durham	3,862
University of East Anglia	4,581
University of East London	4,656
Edge Hill University	4,519
Institute of Education	4,855
University of Essex	3,827

	£
University of Exeter	4,086
University College Falmouth	4,061
University of Gloucestershire	3,887
Goldsmiths College, University of London	3,924
University of Greenwich	4,870
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	4,650
Harper Adams University College	5,814
University of Hertfordshire	4,138
Heythrop College	3,237
University of Huddersfield	4,624
University of Hull	4,292
Imperial College London	7,181
Keele University	4,722
University of Kent	3,812
King's College London	6,976
Kingston University	4,721
Lancaster University	3,531
University of Leeds	4,690
Leeds Metropolitan University	4,027
Leeds College of Music	4,138
Leeds Trinity University College	3,760
University of Leicester	4,719
University of Lincoln	4,085
University of Liverpool	5,725
Liverpool Hope University	4,089
Liverpool John Moores University	4,439
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	4,122
University of the Arts London	4,595
London School of Economics and Political Science	3,273
London Metropolitan University	4,890
London South Bank University	4,819
Loughborough University	4,250
University of Manchester	4,758
Manchester Metropolitan University	4,052
Middlesex University	4,195
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	5,043
Newman University College	4,277
University of Northampton	4,069
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	4,318
Norwich University College of the Arts	4,423
University of Nottingham	4,693
Nottingham Trent University	4,124
Open University	5,426
School of Oriental and African Stud-es	3,438
University of Oxford	4,333
Oxford Brookes University	3,939
School of Pharmacy	6,172
University of Plymouth	4,706
University College Plymouth St. Mark and St. John	4,074
University of Portsmouth	4,065
Queen Mary, University of London	6,294
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	5,634
University of Reading	3,979
Roehampton University	4,254
Rose Bruford College	4,513
Royal Academy of Music	4,366
Royal Agricultural College	4,337
Royal College of Music	4,369
Royal Holloway, University of London	3,957
Royal Northern College of Music	3,969
Royal Veterinary College	13,620
St. George's Hospital Medical School	10,017
St Mary's University College	4,196
University of Salford	4,455
University of Sheffield	4,675
Sheffield Hallam University	4,182
University of Southampton	4,788
Southampton Solent University	4,192
Staffordshire University	4,626
Universities of East Anglia and Essex; Joint Provision at University Campus Suffolk	4,583
University of Sunderland	5,073
University of Surrey	4,035
University of Sussex	3,976
University of Teesside	5,079
Thames Valley University	5,164
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	4,635
University College London	6,003
University of Warwick	4,259
University of the West of England, Bristol	4,071
University of Westminster	4,481
University of Winchester	3,643
University of Wolverhampton	4,886
University of Worcester	4,417
Writtle College	5,429
University of York	3,882
York St. John University	3,805

Notes:

1. The rates of funding are per full-time equivalent UK/EU student for 2009/10 and reflect the standard rates of grant provided for each institution through HEFCE's main teaching grant plus those other elements of its teaching grant that can be clearly attributed to undergraduate students (funding for widening access, improving retention, foundation degrees and part-time undergraduate students). It does not include other elements of teaching grant that are calculated at the whole institution level.

2. The figures also exclude income from tuition fees, other public funders such as the NHS and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) or from other sources.

3. The main reason for variation in the rates of funding received by institutions is their mix of students between different subject areas. Hence the highest rates are received by institutions specialising in medicine or veterinary science and the lowest rates by institutions specialising in classroom-based subjects. Other causes of variation are the extent to which institutions receive funding to reflect their additional costs associated with widening participation and supporting students more at risk of not completing their studies, and their mix between full-time and part-time and between foundation degrees and other undergraduate students.

Higher Education: Radicalism

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many suspected instances of extremism have been reported by university staff as taking place on campus in each of the last three years. [302490]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold this information centrally. Our guidance to Vice-Chancellors of January 2008 advised that any concerns about extremist groups or individuals should be discussed in the first instance with the university's designated police contact and decisions on appropriate action would be taken by the police in discussion with university authorities.

Insolvency

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many insolvencies started more than 15 years ago remain unresolved; and what steps he is taking to identify the reasons for the time taken to resolve such cases. [300724]

Ian Lucas: According to the case database maintained by the Insolvency Service, there are 25 bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation cases where the insolvency order was made more than 15 years ago where the official receiver has not applied for release as trustee or liquidator. All bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation cases are regularly monitored to ensure that they are progressed appropriately and administered in a timely fashion.

There are two IVAs currently ongoing that are 15 years or more old.

Companies House records show that for other (non compulsory) insolvencies the number starting more than 15 years ago but not concluded is 3,717.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State has no role in monitoring the progress of insolvency cases dealt with by licensed insolvency practitioners. That is properly a matter for the creditors (or in the case of solvent liquidations, the members) and, ultimately, the courts.

Insolvency Service: Finance

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on which projects the £23,489.94 funding provided to the Insolvency Service by his Department in 2007-08 was spent other than on the Enabling the Future programme. [301773]

Ian Lucas: During the year 2007-08, £23,489.94 (the actual figure spent in 2007-08 was £23,572.22) was spent. Of this, £11,892.22 was assigned to the service's Enabling the Future (EtF) programme and £11,680 was assigned to the rest of the service to raise awareness of the agency's organisational values promoting awareness of acceptable behaviour, to ensure all staff were treated fairly at work.

EtF is a major change programme which is enabling Insolvency Service staff to provide the best possible service to customers. It represents a major programme of investment in the service's systems and the way it works. It is aimed at: providing modern tools and processes to support the highest quality of customer service; reducing costs and so improving the value for money the service offers; and making the service a better and more rewarding place for staff to work in. The money was spent on internal publicity material designed to ensure that the changes in working practices were embedded within the organisation.

The £11,680 assigned to the agency's organisational values includes £3,500 spent on mugs ordered by the service and issued to staff, with the agency's logo and text reading 'Your Views Matter'. The mugs were used to remind and encourage staff to complete the staff attitude survey. This is important because by seeking to increase take-up of the staff survey the service is able to develop a better understanding of staff needs in relation to performing their roles more effectively. By addressing these needs the service is able to drive up performance and provide a better service to customers. The mugs also encouraged staff to support the agency's environmental policies by using fewer disposable cups.

Part of the figure also includes £3,000 relating to sticky note pads designed to raise awareness of the service's organisational values, promoting awareness of acceptable behaviour, to ensure all staff were treated fairly at work. This item featured the service's logo and the strapline 'Working Well Together'.

Set out in the table is the list of promotional products purchased to raise awareness of the agency's organisational values, promoting awareness of acceptable behaviour at work.

Promotional item	*Approximate cost (£)*
Sticky note pads	3,000
Note Pads	400
Folders	500
Calendars	1,000
Posters	200
Leaflets	2,900
Mugs	3,500
Pens	180
Estimated total	11,680

In response to my previous reply to the hon. Member on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2077W, the service stated that £23,489.94 was spent on promotional products in 2007-08. The correct figure should have been £23,572.22. This figure consists of £11,892.22 on the service's EtF programme and £11,680 on the service's organisational values, the total cost of which was £23,572.22.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions officials of the Export Credit Guarantee Department have met representatives of Kellogg, Brown and Root and its subsidiaries since February 2009. [301916]

Ian Lucas: None.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Gordon of 14 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 1055W, on LNG Plant (Nigeria), whether the Export Credit Guarantee Department *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from MW Kellogg and Kellogg, Brown and Root clarification of (i) the role and appointment of the TSKJ consortium's agent, (ii) the payment of commissions and (ii) the extent to which the companies had been in contact with the French and US investigations with regard to allegations of bribery in connection with the liquefied natural gas plant at Bonny Island in Nigeria (A) prior and (B) subsequent to its provision of guarantees. [301917]

Ian Lucas: ECGD was not provided with information about the role and appointment of the TSKJ consortium's agent prior to ECGD committing its support for the Bonny Island project. MW Kellogg Ltd., the exporter who benefited from ECGD support for the LNG project, provided a warranty to ECGD that no one, including any of its employees, acting on its behalf had engaged in corrupt activity with regard to its contract for the supply of goods and services to the TSKJ consortium. When, after ECGD had provided its support for the project, allegations of corrupt activity came to ECGD's attention, Halliburton, the parent company of Kellogg, Brown and Root, provided ECGD with information regarding the French and US investigations and said that they had been contacted by investigatory bodies in those countries. Halliburton also said that MW Kellogg Ltd. had not been involved in the payment of any agent's commission or the appointment of the TSKJ agent.

Natural Gas: Carbon Monoxide

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that all registered gas fitters carry with them when working a device to detect carbon monoxide. [301369]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The carrying of carbon monoxide detection devices by registered gas fitters will be discussed at the new cross departmental gas safety group. This group will consider the experiences of gas providers in using this type of equipment before making any recommendations for future use.

Post Offices: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated to post offices in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in each of the last 10 years. [302348]

Mr. McFadden: In the last 10 years, the Department has provided over £3.3 billion in support of the post office network. This includes the current annual £150 million subsidy which supports otherwise loss-making post offices in urban and rural areas.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms exist within his Department for companies to raise complaints regarding compliance with the rules governing EU tender processes; and if he will make a statement. [302832]

Ian Lucas: The Office of Government Commerce has outlined a commitment in the 2007 paper, Transforming Government Procurement to improve professional standards, to be a more intelligent client for suppliers and for the OGC to be an avenue of recourse should these standards not be upheld. The Supplier Feedback Service was set up in order for OGC to achieve these goals.

The role of the Supplier Feedback Service is to provide a clear, structured and direct route for suppliers to raise concerns about public procurement practice when attempts at resolving issues with a contracting authority have failed. OGC's Supplier Feedback Service will provide reasoned feedback to enquirers on their concerns and help OGC identify areas of poor procurement practice so it can work with the contracting authority to put them right, and help ensure similar cases do not arise in future.

More widely, any UK citizen or business who feels that their access to the EU Single Market is being restricted through the mis-application of EU legislation can make a compliant to the UK SOLVIT Centre which is located in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

Shell

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates representatives of his Department and its predecessors have met Royal Dutch Shell executives in each year since 2002. [301578]

Mr. Lammy: Representatives of the Department regularly meet with a range of companies. However, the Department does not have a central record of the dates when meetings with executives of Royal Dutch Shell have taken place. To separately identify them over the specified period of time would incur disproportionate cost.

Students: Loans

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects all eligible students waiting for loan payments to have received such payments; and what assistance *(a)* Student Finance England and *(b)* his Department provides to students who are waiting for such payments. [301654]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) has released figures on its website to show the levels of processing and payments made for Student Finance England for the 2009-10 academic year. I am advised that the Student Finance England is currently processing paper applications received from end of October, and on-line applications received from 15 November. Student Finance England expects to clear new cases within a four to six week turnaround time, subject to receipt of the appropriate evidence.

Every year a number of students apply after the deadline by which payment at the start of term is guaranteed. Student Finance England will have made interim payments to a number of these students to ensure that they can start their courses. In such cases, provided the applicant has supplied the relevant evidence by the end of October, Student Finance England will re-assess these applications and confirm whether any additional payments can be made, by 14 December 2009.

I am also assured by SLC that it is working closely with student support staff in the universities to resolve issues on cases where the student has not yet received their full entitlement.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students who have had their student loan applications approved in respect of the 2009-10 academic year had not received their payments on the latest date for which figures are available. [303045]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) has released figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year. The information is available on the SLC website.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for student support received by the Student Loans Company in respect of the 2009-10 academic year have not been assessed on a *(a)* full and *(b)* interim basis; and how many such applications have not been considered on either basis. [303046]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) has released figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year. The information is available on the SLC website.

Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what internship schemes his Department *(a)* partially and *(b)* fully funds; how much his Department plans to spend on each such scheme in 2009-10; and how many places there are on each such scheme. [302506]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has developed the Graduate Talent Pool, a one stop matching service for employers who have internships to advertise and graduates seeking suitable placements. We have so far provided funding of £1,184,000 in 2009-10 to cover infrastructure and publicity costs, and over 11,000 vacancies have been advertised on the website.

In addition, BIS is working with the Department of Work and Pensions to deliver 5,000 graduate internship opportunities under Backing Young Britain, and with the Federation of Small Businesses and HEFCE to generate 5,000 more in small and medium sized businesses. The total cost of these places will be around £16 million. HEFCE has also funded over 2,000 graduate internship opportunities for 2009-10 through its Economic Challenges Investment Fund.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 December 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons Annunciator System:

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission plans to carry on the annunciator system a feed of proceedings from the chambers of the devolved assemblies. [302124]

Nick Harvey: It is not possible for Members to view proceedings of the devolved assemblies on the Parliamentary annunciator system as there are no broadcast links available. The proceedings can however be viewed via the internet using the following sites:

For the Scottish Parliament:

www.scottish.parliament.uk

For the Welsh Assembly:

www.senedd.tv

For the Northern Ireland Assembly:

www.niassembly.gov.uk/stream.htm

TRANSPORT

Arriva

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the *(a)* new Arriva Trains Wales North to South Wales Express service and *(b)* merits of that service including a stop in Hereford. [303051]

Chris Mole: This is a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly Government. The Department for Transport has not had any detailed discussion about this service with the Welsh Assembly Government, apart from clarification of the contractual status of this service.

Aviation: Waltham Forest

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the revised London City Airport standard instrument departure procedures on the number of aircraft flying over areas of Waltham Forest; and which areas of Waltham Forest have been affected by such changes. [302042]

Paul Clark: London City Airport's standard instrument departure (SID) routes passed over parts of Waltham Forest before the recent changes and under the revised SIDs, still do. The Civil Aviation Authority, as the independent regulator of airspace, will assess the full impact of the changes 12 months after their introduction.

Bus Services: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the percentage change in bus fares was in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [302039]

Mr. Khan: The annual percentage change in local bus fares in London was 5 per cent. in 2007-08 and 0 per cent. in 2008-09, at current prices. The equivalent figures for England were 6 per cent. in 2007-08 and 5 per cent. in 2008-09.

These statistics are derived from the bus fares index maintained by the Department for Transport and are calculated as the annual percentage increase in the average value of the relevant index across the whole financial year.

East Coast Main Line

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase internet access speeds on passenger rail services operating on the East Coast Main Line. [302655]

Chris Mole: The franchise requirements with respect to wi-fi internet access on the East Coast route have transferred from National Express East Coast to the East Coast Main Line Company trading as East Coast. I understand that East Coast is reviewing the service that is provided.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties and Insurance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what requirements his Department makes of cars registered abroad to have *(a)* road tax and *(b)* insurance when being driven on UK roads; and if he will make a statement. [303554]

Paul Clark: A vehicle which is properly registered and taxed in its home country may be used by a visitor for up to six months in any 12 without being subject to domestic registration and licensing.

All vehicles in use on UK roads, whether or not registered in the UK, are required to be insured against third party risk under Section 143 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

National Express East Coast

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has for future operational arrangements for the two rail franchises currently held by National Express; and if he will make a statement. [302636]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 100WS.

North Cotswold Line

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to create a dual track railway line on the North Cotswold Line between Ledbury and Hereford; and if he will make a statement. [303125]

Chris Mole: There are no Government plans at present for re-doubling the North Cotswolds Line between Ledbury and Hereford, although Network Rail is currently reviewing the requirements of the line as part of its West Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy. The outcome from this and other route utilisation strategies will guide rail investment from 2014.

Norwich-London Railway Line

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) on how many occasions trains or rolling stock used on the Norwich to London railway line failed routine safety inspections in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date; [302200]

(2) how many instances have been identified of employees *(a)* operating vehicles and *(b)* managing infrastructure on the Norwich to London railway line without the appropriate safety certificate or authorisation during (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009 to date; [302201]

(3) how many breaches of health and safety regulations have been reported on the Norwich to London railway line in each of the last 10 years. [302434]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. The Office of Rail Regulation is responsible for safety regulation. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Office of Rail Regulation at the following address for such information:

Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

Penzance-Plymouth Railway Line

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will bring forward measures to amend the terms of the CrossCountry franchise agreement to include a requirement for the train operating company to provide catering facilities between Penzance and Plymouth. [303371]

Chris Mole: The obligations upon CrossCountry to provide catering between defined points on its network were based upon market research conducted by the successful bidder (Arriva). The Department for Transport has no plans to amend the terms of the Franchise Agreement to include a requirement to provide catering facilities between Penzance and Plymouth.

Public Transport: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what projects his Department plans to fund from the Transport Innovation Fund in Tyne and Wear as a result of the work of the Tyne and Wear People in Motion Partnership. [302539]

Mr. Khan: It is for Tyne and Wear authorities to decide whether to bid for funding for schemes from the Transport Innovation Fund. The Department for Transport has not received any such bids to date.

Railways: Penalty Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport under what *(a)* statutory or *(b)* other authority train operating companies may apply penalty fares. [302633]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The legal basis for charging penalty fares is section 130 of the Railways Act 1993.

There are also two statutory instruments relating to regulations for penalty fares: the Railways (Penalty Fares) Regulations 1994 (Statutory Instrument 1994 No. 576) and the Railways (Penalty Fares) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1095).

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the replacement of railway sleepers. [302691]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has had representation from two companies regarding the use of railway sleepers made from recycled material.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured while driving on roads in each year since 1997. [302858]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of motor vehicle drivers and riders *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in reported road accidents in each year since 1997:

Reported motor vehicle driver and rider casualties: GB 1997-2008

	Killed	*Injured*
1997	1,741	164,920
1998	1,704	166,270
1999	1,706	164,902
2000	1,768	169,043
2001	1,824	167,513
2002	1,844	163,497
2003	1,943	157,871
2004	1,771	153,535
2005	1,764	149,780
2006	1,735	143,481
2007	1,610	137,529
2008	1,415	127,133

A breakdown of these statistics can be found in the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2008 Annual Report. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the fuel consumption of the proposed bi-mode Intercity Express train per mile when running *(a)* under the wires and *(b)* on diesel; and what percentage of fuel consumed when running under the wires will be attributable to the transportation of the vehicle itself. [301212]

Chris Mole: Based on "flat out"[1] running, the fuel consumption of a 10-car bi-mode Super Express train is approximately *(a)* 30 kWh per mile when on an electric-powered journey from London to Edinburgh (same as for the bi-mode train running on electric) and *(b)* 7.3 litres per mile when on a diesel-powered journey from Edinburgh to Aberdeen.

When either a bi-mode train or an electric train is running London to Edinburgh, the percentage of power attributable to transportation of the train is estimated to be approximately 80-90 per cent., with the remainder providing power to air conditioning, lighting and other onboard 'hotel' services. This proportion will vary depending on the route being operated, dwell times, turn around times, etc.

[1] Reflecting maximum acceleration and braking, and station stops (zero dwell times).

Transport: Weston-super-Mare

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of progress on the West of England Partnership's Weston Package bid; and when he expects it to be granted programme entry. [301778]

Mr. Khan: Assessment for Programme Entry of the Weston Package scheme has now been completed and I expect to make a decision shortly.

WALES

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many external consultants work for his Department. [303227]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303608]

Mr. Hain: Three.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to his Department was of the provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302963]

Mr. Hain: It is not possible to provide the information in the manner requested as we do not hold a breakdown on the cost of office facilities for individual units within the Wales Office.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302733]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is as follows:

(a) 13 November 2009

(b) 26 November 2009

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302752]

Mr. Hain: None.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [300779]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs can confirm that DEFRA recycled the following amount of paper in each of the last five years.

	Paper recycled (Tonnes)	*Total waste (Tonnes)*	*Percentage of waste recycled*[1]	*Percentage of waste recovered*[2]
2008-09	781	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
2007-08	881	4,816	29	60
2006-07	860	5,252	27	55
2005-06	970	5,716	29	47
2004-05	669	4,283	22	52

[1] Waste recycled is any waste that is recycled, composted or reused externally.

[2] Waste recovered is any waste that is recycled, composted, reused externally or incinerated with energy recovery (energy from waste).

[3] Data embargoed by OGC until 18 December 2009.

The table above demonstrates that DEFRA is continuing to both reduce its waste arisings and increase the amount of waste it recycles/recovers.

It should be noted that DEFRA rebaselined its waste arisings for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) reporting purposes to 2006-07 following a change in the reporting parameters; in 2004-05 and 2005-06 data were gathered from sites with 50 or more staff, this changed in 2006-07 and subsequent years to reporting sites with 25 or more staff. The number of sites has increased from 38 to over 50.

It should be noted that DEFRA incinerates approximately 30 per cent. of its waste, from which significant quantity of heat and energy is recovered. The majority of the incinerated waste is generated in the laboratories and cannot be recycled, therefore incinerating with energy recovery higher on the waste hierarchy than sending to landfill. Current Sustainable Development Commission reporting does not acknowledge energy recovery from waste incineration as recycling or waste recovery under current Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) guidelines.

The full 2008-09 Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting data will be published by OGC on 18 December 2009.

Drinking Water: Pollution Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount spent from the public purse on removing *(a)* pesticides and *(b)* nitrates from drinking water supplies in each of the last five years. [303298]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The cost of providing public drinking water supplies is not covered by the public purse. Costs are incurred by water companies which recover them from customers through water bills.

Food Supply

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* conducted on the introduction of new crops and agronomic techniques intended to ensure the security of food supply. [302482]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has invested in research on the development of improved pest and disease resistance, reduced input requirements, resilience to climate change and lower pollution outputs. The DEFRA Crop Genetic Improvement Networks (cereals, oilseed rape, pulses, vegetables, grasses, biomass crops) deliver research that allows selection of genetic resources for desired characteristics. DEFRA co-funds further research in partnership with industry (e.g. LINK) to transfer these characteristics into commercially viable crops.

DEFRA has also funded research generally in partnership with industry into improved agronomic techniques to develop whole-farm approaches that optimise production in terms of soil and nutrient management, precision agriculture, integrated management of crop diseases, pests and weeds, and improved water use efficiency.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Research

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assess the environmental impact of genetically modified crops in England; if he will list the research projects commissioned or completed since the conclusion of the Government-funded farm scale evaluations, that are designed to repeat or built on the research on the environmental impacts of those trials; and what scientific conclusions were reached. [303372]

Dan Norris: In line with European Union legislation, the proposed release of genetically modified crops is subject to a robust case-by-case assessment of the potential impact on human health and the environment. DEFRA Ministers receive expert scientific advice on this from the independent Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment.

DEFRA has commissioned two projects since the conclusion of the Farm Scale Evaluation trials which follow up or build on that research, as follows:

Research project title	*Project code*
Assessing the environmental impact of crop production practice—beyond the GM crop Farm Scale Evaluations	AR0317
Farm Scale Evaluations—further sampling of soil seed bank and seedling emergence	CB 02034 and 02037

Full details of these projects, including the final reports, are available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the implications for his Department's policies on genetically modified foods of the editorial in the Scientific American in July 2009 which asserts that it is impossible to verify that genetically modified crops perform as advertised because agritech companies have given themselves veto power over the work of independent researchers. [303373]

Dan Norris: We support open scientific inquiry in this area, and anticipate that companies would make their genetically modified seeds available for legitimate research, as they did in the UK for the major Farm Scale Evaluations project.

Land Drainage: Urban Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's definition is of a sustainable urban drainage system; if he will adopt the definition used in Scottish law; how many such systems there are in England and Wales; who is responsible for *(a)* creating and *(b)* maintaining them; how they physically connect with surface water systems; and if he will make a statement. [302316]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As a general rule, the phrase 'Sustainable Urban Drainage System' is used in Scotland, whereas 'Sustainable Drainage Systems' tends to apply in England and Wales because its use is not limited to urban areas.

The Flood and Water Management Bill, which had its first reading in the House of Commons on 19 November, will introduce measures to increase the uptake of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) in England and Wales. The Bill sets out that 'sustainable drainage' means managing rainwater with the aim of:

Reducing damage from flooding;
Improving water quality;
Protecting and improving the environment;
Protecting health and safety; and
Ensuring the stability and durability of drainage systems.

The Bill also gives powers to the Secretary of State and Welsh Ministers to define by regulations the term 'sustainable drainage system'.

There is currently no register of SUDS, although the proposals set out in the Flood and Water Management Bill for the approval and adoption of sustainable drainage systems will address this.

The Government currently encourage the uptake of SUDS through planning policy statement 25 on development and flood risk, and part H of the building regulations 2002.

Sir Michael Pitt's review of the 2007 floods identified that the lack of formal SUDS adoption and maintenance arrangements and an automatic right to connect surface water to the public sewer system, were barriers to a more widespread uptake of SUDS.

The Flood and Water Management Bill seeks to resolve these issues by requiring developers to seek approval for drainage plans for new developments and redevelopments from a new SUDS Approving Body (SAB) in unitary and county councils. It also provides for the Government to publish a set of National Standards for SUDS, after consultation. Permission to connect surface water drains to the public sewer (if needed) would only be given once the drainage systems have been approved by the local authority as meeting National Standards for SUDS. The Bill also states that sustainable drainage systems serving more than one property would be adopted and maintained by the local authority SUDS Approving Body. These proposals should ensure that SUDS are routinely used in developments in the future.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of abandoned animals. [301648]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 owners and keepers of animals are required to keep their animals in a suitable environment. The law on abandonment is therefore robust and those who do not comply can be sent to prison for up to six months, fined and/or disqualified from keeping animals.

We have been working closely with animal welfare stakeholders to produce new Codes of Practice on the welfare of cats, dogs, and horses. These new Codes are designed to help people comply with the requirements of the Act. We believe they will help to prevent animals from being abandoned and will be launched shortly.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of animals acquired as domestic pets and abandoned after the Christmas period in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [301649]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has made no estimate.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney-General has received a report from the Serious Fraud Office for consent for prosecution in relation to charges against BAE Systems; and if she will make a statement. [301913]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has previously announced that it is preparing papers to be submitted to the Attorney-General when the SFO considers it is ready to proceed. That remains the current position.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Serious Fraud Office has closed its investigations into allegations of bribery and corruption involving BAE Systems in *(a)* Romania and *(b)* South Africa. [301914]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is conducting a number of live criminal investigations into BAE Systems and it is not appropriate to comment on the details at this stage.

Business: Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney-General is required to conduct a Shawcross exercise when considering whether to consent to prosecute British companies and individuals in relation to allegations of overseas corruption; and if she will make a statement. [301915]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General is under no such obligation.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from the Law Officers' Departments took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse such flights were taken. [300396]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Department	*Number of flight on official business*	*Cost (£)*
Attorney General's Office	73	16,932
Serious Fraud Office	77	14,812
National Fraud Authority	2	749.20
Treasury Solicitors	0	0
Her Majesty's Chief Crown Prosecutions inspectorate	0	0
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	19	3,052.37

Information in respect of the Crown Prosecution Service could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All travel by Civil Servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and Departmental staff handbooks.

Departmental Cost-effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Solicitor-General what efficiency savings projects the Law Officers' Departments put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to

Departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [300939]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers Departments account for one of the smallest budgets in Whitehall. In line with the Government's OEP implementation plan, they have provided benchmarking data to HM Treasury across the range of OEP indicators.

The Law Officers Departments' contribution to the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) is being delivered as part of their wider effort to deliver value for money, including their contribution to the Government's target to deliver £35 billion in savings during the current comprehensive spending review period.

Under these arrangements a number of projects are planned or are already under way. In April it was announced that we would merge the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) to drive out economies of scale, minimise duplication and create a more flexible and resilient organisation which was better able to handle specialist and complex cases. RCPO and CPS will by July 2010 have merged into one prosecuting body delivering significant savings.

The Law Officers Departments are also reviewing their estates as part of the overall efficiency effort, with a view to rationalising accommodation as leases expire. The first major phase of the rationalisation will be to give up RCPO's existing accommodation in New Kings Beam House when the lease on that property expires in December 2011. Work thereafter will enable the whole Law Officers Departments' estate to be used more flexibly and cost-effectively in the future.

Additionally, the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) has upgraded its financial system and reviewed its financial processes so that the opportunities for efficiency provided by the new system can be fully exploited and these include outsourced invoice scanning with electronic authorisation. New procure-to-pay systems are being introduced, in line with the recommendations of the OEP, to improve controls over the procurement process, reduce costs and increase the opportunities for collaborative procurement.

The Law Officers Departments continue to work collectively to identify and deliver further opportunities for efficiency savings in OEP areas and are undertaking a review to ensure that they are best positioned to contribute to the £9 billion which will be delivered in the next spending period.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303492]

The Solicitor-General: I have made one official visit to Scotland during the last 12 months.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in the Law Officers' Departments. [302029]

The Solicitor-General: There are no scientific advisers or civil servants in scientific posts in the Law Officers' Departments.

Serious Fraud Office

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General whether she has considered the merits of the Serious Fraud Office operating a leniency programme similar to that operated by the Office of Fair Trading. [301931]

The Solicitor-General: The SFO has recently published a guide to dealing with overseas corruption, including a self-reporting element that has some similarities with the Office of Fair Trading's Leniency Programme.

The SFO's guide to dealing with overseas corruption can be found on the SFO website at:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/media/13390/approach%20of%20the%20sfo%20to%dealing%20with%20overseas%20corruption.pdf

Vodafone Group: Ghana Telecom

Mr. Watson: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what representations the Serious Fraud Office has received in respect of Vodafone's merger with Ghana Telecom; and if she will make a statement; [301946]

(2) what discussions the Serious Fraud Office has had with representatives of Vodafone on its merger with Ghana Telecom in the last 12 months. [301948]

The Solicitor-General: I have not received representations on this issue, nor have I had any such discussions.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Serious Fraud Office plans to investigate Vodafone's merger with Ghana Telecom; and if she will make a statement. [301947]

The Solicitor-General: For operational reasons it would not be appropriate to comment on this matter at this time.

JUSTICE

British Petroleum

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether officials in his Department took a minute or other record of the telephone calls between Sir Mark Allen, Senior Consultant at BP, and him in *(a)* October 2007 and *(b)* November 2007. [301573]

Mr. Straw: The fact that the phone calls had been made was recorded, and has already been made public. From my recollection both calls were brief, no formal record of the calls was taken, and no other record of the calls remains.

Debts: Advisory Services

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions officials of his Department have had with the Prime Minister's Office on the regulation of debt management schemes; [302658]

(2) what meetings his Department held with outside organisations prior to the publication of the consultation on the introduction of a statutory debt management scheme; [302659]

(3) for what reason the consultation on the introduction of a statutory debt management scheme was not published in July 2009; [302660]

(4) what discussions Ministers in his Department had with interested parties prior to the publication of the consultation on the introduction of a statutory debt management scheme; [302761]

(5) what representations his Department has received to its consultation on debt management schemes to date; [302762]

(6) what his policy is on the generation of profits from debt management schemes operating under the provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007; and if he will make a statement; [302763]

(7) when he expects to publish his Department's response to its consultation on debt management schemes. [302874]

Bridget Prentice: The current economic downturn is causing real hardship for many hardworking consumers and the Government are determined to do all we can to help those in financial difficulties, while balancing this against creditors' rights to recover their debts wherever possible, both now and in the future.

Following concerns about the operation of this sector, the consultation paper "Debt Management Schemes—delivering effective and balanced solutions for debtors and creditors" was published on 18 September 2009. It looks at the current operation of the debt management market, seeking views on whether any changes are needed in this area and, if so, what those changes should be.

The consultation paper sets out three broad options. First, to continue with the measures currently under way to raise awareness about current schemes and enforce existing rules with operators. Second, to improve current schemes without regulation, possibly through the introduction of a protocol. Or third, to implement the Lord Chancellor's powers to approve debt management schemes contained in Chapter 4 of Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act (TCEA) 2007.

During the development of the paper, officials held a number of bi-lateral meetings with stakeholders from the credit, advice and debt management plan operator sectors. These were supplemented by a series of seminars to wider audiences at various locations across the country and the creation a key stakeholder group consisting of representatives from all sectors that has met several times.

The Government had originally intended to publish the consultation paper before the summer recess. However, publication was delayed to allow the paper to reflect early comments on the Consumer White Paper published on 2 July 2009, which detailed wider Government action to support consumers.

This consultation has been developed jointly by the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Insolvency Service. As is normal, such consultations involve discussions with and input from a wide range of departments, including the Cabinet Office.

The consultation paper makes it clear that the Government have no set view on which, if any, of the options proposed should be taken forward. However, we have made it clear that only reasonable costs should be recoverable by providers and are seeking views on the level at which these should be set should there be a consensus to move forward with either the introduction some form of protocol or the implementation of the powers in Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

It is expected that the results of the consultation will be available in the new year, at which time the Government would announce what action we plan to take in this area.

The consultation paper can be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/debt-management-schemes.htm

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303098]

Mr. Wills: Contracts are awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous offer taking into account economic, technical and commercial considerations using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract. No costs are incurred by the Ministry of Justice on the advertisement of tenders. We are required to advertise certain types of contracts in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) which is a free of charge service and we also take advantage of other free trade journals.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302420]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not separately identify expenditure on website maintenance in its accounting records. However, the Ministry's Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) division holds offline records on this expenditure as follows:

2008-09 maintenance cost

	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,410,000.00
Tribunals Service	146,256.00
Office of the Public Guardian	0

2009-10 forecast maintenance cost

	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,410,000.00
Tribunals Service	164,615.00
Office of the Public Guardian	0

It is not possible to reliably distinguish website maintenance costs (incurred or forecast) from other IT expenditure for HM Courts Service and the National Offender Management Service, except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criminal offences have been created in each year since 1997. [302855]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 955W and the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W.

The information in the Libraries of the House is still current and there are no immediate plans to update the information and to do so could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302025]

Mr. Wills: There are no scientific adviser posts within the Ministry of Justice, nor are there any civil servants working in scientific posts. A small number of staff in the National Offender Management Service work as scientific officers or with the scientific grade group but these are in statistical or professional and technical, rather than scientific roles. The Ministry of Justice as a whole employs a number of statisticians, economists, social researchers and operational researchers but these are not classified as scientific posts.

Some scientific services are provided to the Ministry of Justice by staff employed by the other Government Departments most notably the Home Office Scientific Development Branch.

Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* average and *(c)* shortest waiting period for entry on to a domestic violence perpetrator programme was in England and Wales in each year since such programmes were introduced. [302189]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the longest, average and shortest number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence or licence for offences of violence or abuse to the commencement of domestic violence programme requirements in England and Wales from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Domestic violence programme waiting times in England and Wales

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Longest	155.1	161.5	166.1	155.9
Average[1]	27.1	30.0	31.8	29.4
Shortest	0.1	0	0.1	0

[1] Average across 40 probation areas, excludes data from Cheshire and Greater Manchester.

High risk offenders will be given priority by probation areas over those of medium risk. Preparation work needs to be completed with offenders before they can commence the group work element of a programme.

Offenders waiting for a place on a domestic violence programme are under the supervision of their offender manager who will monitor and actively manage the risk posed by the offender during the course of the supervision period.

The National Offender Management Service is working to reduce waiting times by ensuring staff are familiar with the referral criteria, and by improved liaison between the offender manager, the programme delivery team, and the court.

A further three domestic abuse programmes are also currently being piloted with a view to extending the range of interventions available to perpetrators.

The figures have been drawn from administrative data systems and although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The figures may also be subject to change as cases are updated.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agency have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302166]

Mr. Wills: Policy, rules and guidance related to driving for work, and occupational road-risk are stated in:

(i) Ministry of Justice Departmental Car Scheme User Guidance

(ii) Ministry of Justice Staff Handbook

(iii) Ministry of Justice Corporate Health and Safety documentation

MoJ staff who drive either *(a)* an official vehicle, or *(b)* their own vehicle in the course of their duties must complete an initial driver declaration form and submit a copy of their licence.

A driver licence and insurance check form must also be completed once a year by staff, with their line manager, for staff using their own vehicle on official duties.

Line managers are required to check the driving licence of each individual using a departmental vehicle on a six monthly basis.

In addition to these requirements, staff submitting a claim form seeking reimbursement for mileage expenses incurred while driving their own vehicle in the course of their duties, have to sign a declaration that they hold a valid driving licence; the vehicle has a current MOT and their motor insurance policy covers the use of the vehicle on official business.

Drivers of official vehicles and drivers using their own vehicles on official business must immediately notify their line managers if their licences are endorsed, or withdrawn.

Drivers involved in any accident must notify their line managers (regardless of who owns the car being driven). In addition, drivers of official vehicles must disclose all material facts to the insurer and complete an accident claims form.

All accident reports are assessed. Where the seriousness of the accident warrants further attention, an investigation will be carried out.

Driving Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* England were disqualified from driving as a result of (i) drink-driving, (ii) speeding and (iii) dangerous or reckless driving in each of the last 10 years. [301275]

Claire Ward: The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the Sussex police force area and England for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, speed limit offences, dangerous and careless driving offences, is shown in tables 1 and 2 from 1998 to 2007 (latest available).

There is no specific offence of reckless driving, thus information included in the table is for offences of dangerous and careless driving.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: Number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the Sussex police force area, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Offence type	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[3]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dangerous driving	68	71	63	81	81	75	83	98	81	71
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	1,998	2,119	2,014	2,250	2,224	2,343	2,412	2,298	2,381	2,389
Careless driving	42	50	45	56	56	59	54	32	50	47
Speed limit offences	351	262	306	209	146	111	81	10	179	151
Total	2,459	2,502	2,428	2,596	2,507	2,588	2,630	2,529	2,691	2,658

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

[3] Figures given are not as originally published within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales, 2004", which was released on 30 March 2006. The figures originally released in the above named publication were, due to a processing error, incorrect.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in England, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Offence type	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[3]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dangerous driving	4,570	4,269	4,225	4,116	5,071	6,220	6,177	5,256	4,914	4,675
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	80,332	77,827	74,697	73,685	79,310	81,139	84,669	81,107	81,461	78,503
Careless driving	1,423	1,445	1,478	1,861	2,026	1,988	2,240	2,164	2,085	2,232
Speed limit offences	11,565	11,551	10,695	10,951	8,739	9,330	9,582	9,875	8,977	7,917
Total	97,890	95,092	91,095	90,613	95,146	98,677	102,668	98,402	97,437	93,327

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

[3] Figures given include revised figures for Sussex police force area.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Driving Offences: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Norwich North constituency have been disqualified from driving following an offence of *(a)* speeding, *(b)* dangerous driving and *(c)* drink-driving in each year since 1997. [301699]

Maria Eagle: The number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the Norfolk police force area for speed limit offences, dangerous driving and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in the Norfolk police force area, for selected motoring offences, from 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

Number of offences

Offence type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dangerous driving	50	40	55	34	37	52	81	70	66	66	82
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	1,037	1,001	947	872	1,065	1,179	1,216	1,178	1,217	1,261	1,186
Speed limit offences	290	202	280	188	251	193	321	400	400	351	285
Total	1,377	1,243	1,282	1,094	1,353	1,424	1,618	1,648	1,683	1,678	1,553

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions of residents of Norwich North constituency for each type of motoring offence have resulted in a custodial sentence since 1997. [301701]

Maria Eagle: The number of convictions at all courts in the Norfolk police force area for motoring offences (by offence type) is given in Table 1 from 1997 to 2007 (latest available). Sentences of immediate custody imposed at all courts are given in Table 2.

Court proceedings data held centrally do not identify where those convicted are resident. Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: Defendants found guilty at all courts in the Norfolk police force area, for motoring offences[1] by offence type, from 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

Number

Offence group	*Offence type*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
2	Dangerous driving	65	40	47	31	33	50	47	60	56	59	72
3	Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	1,025	1,036	915	838	1,008	1,100	1,150	1,103	1,161	1,241	1,110
4	Careless driving	724	771	814	809	1,000	857	662	497	540	514	480
5	Accident offences	144	157	128	100	118	127	131	137	133	146	103
7	Driving licence related offences	484	464	525	465	501	595	642	582	542	503	475
8	Vehicle insurance offences	2,503	2,193	2,072	1,848	1,640	1,944	2,620	2,130	2,149	2,099	1,978
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	322	47	52	210	175	222	272	125	42	21	10
11	Work record and employment offences	53	30	20	10	16	26	22	16	13	14	12
12	Operator's licence offences	25	21	11	17	13	11	10	8	6	4	3
13	Vehicle test offences	645	505	420	365	343	321	256	211	223	306	283
14	Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records	129	78	76	61	63	67	58	32	20	30	25
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	286	261	203	179	190	170	150	162	116	138	110
16	Speed limit offences	1,157	1,315	1,580	1,306	1,507	1,264	2,323	2,737	2,798	3,426	2,643

Table 1: Defendants found guilty at all courts in the Norfolk police force area, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

Number

Offence group	Offence type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
18	Neglect of traffic directions	899	635	367	253	265	330	255	158	142	182	188
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	47	82	48	39	25	18	21	20	14	8	19
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	116	82	67	64	113	101	80	58	36	26	18
21	Lighting offences	34	38	18	35	6	22	42	33	21	50	26
22	Noise offences	76	85	55	40	30	32	26	17	7	14	18
23	Load offences	126	161	125	74	85	97	125	58	35	56	31
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	6	3	8	10	6	8	3	4	4	7	5
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	467	161	282	282	227	191	882	990	1,094	935	842
	Total	9,223	8,192	7,750	7,082	7,494	7,571	9,797	9,345	9,141	9,888	8,470

Table 2: Offenders sentenced to immediate custody all courts in the Norfolk police force area, for motoring offences,[1] by offence type, from 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

Number

Offence group	Offence type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
2	Dangerous driving	19	11	16	14	21	27	34	26	19	24	28
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	30	27	38	19	31	26	25	37	26	23	36
6	Accident offences	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	2
7	Driving licence related offences	75	78	100	125	189	160	158	105	94	54	67
9	Vehicle insurance offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
14	Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
16	Speed limit offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	127	113	162	163	242	213	218	172	139	102	133

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

National Offender Management Information System: Expenditure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred on the C-NOMIS IT project. [302134]

Maria Eagle: The cost of the C-NOMIS project was £160.7 million (which excludes depreciation and cost of capital). The majority of this work has been re-used in the Prison-NOMIS project, which now forms part of the NOMIS Programme.

Peterborough Prison

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders were detained at *(a)* HMP Peterborough and *(b)* Young Offender Institution Peterborough as at (i) 31 December 2008, (ii) 31 March

2009, (iii) 30 June 2009 and (iv) 30 September 2009; what proportion of capacity at the relevant institution these figures represent; and if he will make a statement; [303550]

(2) how many foreign prisoners were detained at HMP Peterborough as at *(a)* 31 December 2008, *(b)* 31 March 2009, *(c)* 30 June 2009 and *(d)* 30 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [303551]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the numbers of adults and young offenders, and also the number of foreign nationals detained in HMP Peterborough at the dates shown, with the prison population total given as a percentage of operational capacity.

	Adults	*Young offenders*	*Total population*	*Total as percentage of operational capacity*	*Operational capacity*	*Foreign nationals*
31December 2008	864	71	935	1,008	93	147
31 March 2009	869	64	933	1,008	93	150
30 June 2009	893	57	950	1,008	94	175

Operational Capacity

The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by area managers on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

Figures for the numbers of prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

Figures for the numbers of foreign national prisoners are available at this site for each quarter.

The prison service website at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/

gives figures for operational capacity.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the drug testing programme in prisons. [301384]

Maria Eagle: There are three types of drug testing programmes in prisons:

clinical drug testing which may be used by healthcare staff in support of drug misuse diagnosis;

mandatory drug testing (MDT); and

compact based drug testing (CBDT).

Clinical drug testing is the responsibility of Primary Care Trusts and must be undertaken in line with Department of Health Guidance, "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines" on Clinical Management. Diagnosis does not rely entirely on indicative drug screening results.

Drug testing methodologies used by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) match the requirements of the drug testing programmes, and are based on analytical industry standards. Drug testing services were subject to a rigorous evaluation at the time of procurement and are subject to independent quality control.

Independent research carried out by the Office for National Statistics in to the effectiveness of MDT

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr0305.pdf

concluded that the mandatory drug testing programme met its key objectives.

The effectiveness of CBDT is difficult to isolate from the range of other interventions offered to drug-misusing offenders in prisons. However, contingency management, which operates by providing incentives to modify behaviour, is well evidenced as being effective in the treatment of drug misuse and is recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE). CBDT is broadly consistent with the principles of contingency management.

Both MDT and CBDT continue to be integral parts of the wider NOMS Drug Strategy in prisons. The success of the strategy overall is reflected in the reduction in drug misuse in prisons of 68 per cent. since 1996-07.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 85W, on prisoners release, when he expects *(a)* his Department's investigations to be concluded and *(b)* the hon. Member for West Chelmsford to be given a summary of the findings. [302657]

Maria Eagle: It is expected that the investigating officer's report will be complete by 4 December. Depending on the recommendations in the report, and the possible need for any further proceedings as a result, I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Prisoners: Muslims

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent reports he has received on the exemption of Muslim prisoners from participation in sex offender treatment programmes. [302181]

Maria Eagle: We are not aware of any such reports. There are no exemptions from any parts of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) on the grounds of religion. SOTP, as with other offending behaviour programmes has clear selection criteria, based on risk and need, and rigorous assessment procedures which are used to assess the suitability of offenders referred for the programme.

Self-Harm: Prisoners

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the risk of self-harm and suicide among prisoners detained on the female prison estate; [302324]

(2) how many incidents of self-harm among prisoners have been reported in each of the last four quarters of the last year. [302325]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm in both the male and female prison estate are identified, cared for and monitored using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process. This is a prisoner-centred, flexible and accountable care-planning system based on a multi-disciplinary approach. ACCT was introduced across the prison estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07.

Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and NOMS are committed to learning from each death and to reducing the number of such incidents. Good care and support from staff save many lives, but such instances go largely unreported. Prisons successfully keep safe in any given month approximately 1,500 prisoners assessed to be at particular risk of suicide or self-harm. Deaths in prisons are among the most scrutinised of all incidents and each case is subject to a police investigation and an independent investigation by the Prisons Probation Ombudsman. Robust systems are in place for monitoring deaths and learning from them.

NOMS does not compile quarterly statistics on incidents of self-harm in prisons. However, there was a provisional total of 24,686 incidents of self-harm recorded on NOMS Incident Reporting System in 2008, of which 12,938 incidents were in the female estate. In the community self-harm is often covert but in prison it is much harder to hide.

NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses proactively identifying prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm through the ACCT procedures described above. ACCT has helped prisons manage self-harm. Approximately 33,000 ACCT plans were opened in 2008. More than one plan can be opened for any prisoner. There are no easy answers to managing self-harming behaviour but NOMS remains committed to finding ways to manage it.

Young Offenders: Remand in Custody

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people in each year group to 18 charged with each category of offences have been placed on remand for *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* between one and three months, *(c)* between three and six months, *(d)* between six and 12 months and *(e)* over 12 months in each year since 1997. [303348]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is currently being collated and I hope to be in a position to write to the hon. Member within the next two weeks to provide the data requested for each year since 2000, when the Youth Justice Board was established.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people in each age group to 18 have been placed on remand and *(a)* subsequently not convicted or *(b)* convicted but given a non-custodial sentence in each year since 1997, broken down by the period of time spent on remand. [303351]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to provide the data broken down by period of time spent on remand as requested. However, the information otherwise requested is currently being collated and I hope to be in a position to write to the hon. Member within the next two weeks.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303605]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office currently employs three press officers. All work directly for the office.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302422]

Ann McKechin: The cost of maintaining the Scotland Office website in the financial year 2008-09 was £15,052.50 plus VAT.

The cost included the redevelopment of the site including a comprehensive in-house content management system which represents considerable value for money and cost savings for the office when implemented as well as now and in the future.

The projected maintenance costs for the Scotland Office website for the financial year 2009-10 are £3,500 plus VAT.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302736]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I last travelled by *(a)* bus on 5 November 2009 and *(b)* taxi on 27 October 2009 in the course of my official duties.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302755]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record information on vehicle clamping charges.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303083]

Mr. Simon: No contracts between Capita Group plc and the Department were cancelled prior to completion. No penalties for contractual defaults have been imposed.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303129]

Mr. Simon: Each contract has its own unique set of criteria on which the award will be made. This will be dependent on the specific nature of work that is required. All criteria used are in accordance with best practice, in terms of seeking the most economically advantageous tender.

The Department only holds information on the cost of advertising tenders from 2006-07, when electronic tendering was introduced.

	£
2006-07	4,112
2007-08	4,112
2008-09	4,112

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303485]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 5 June 2009, I have visited Scotland once and Wales once, in an official capacity. I have not visited Northern Ireland.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302976]

Mr. Simon: The cost of provision of office facilities to special advisers and press officers in 2008-09 was as follows:

	£
Special advisers	20,520
Press officers	71,910

Costs include an appropriate share of rent, business rates, service charges, utilities maintenance and accommodation management charges.

Digital Broadcasting: Complaints

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints he has received about digital switchover from residents of *(a)* East Devon, *(b)* Devon and (c) England. [303449]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not held centrally in the manner requested; to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has made an assessment of the implications for the use of car radios with the digital switchover. [303310]

Mr. Simon: We have worked closely with vehicle manufacturers during the Digital Radio Working Group in 2008 and in the lead up to the Digital Britain White Paper to consider the impact of the digital radio switchover on motorists. In addition, we have agreed with the Consumer Expert Group to extend its remit to advise Government on a wide range of consumer issues relating to radio switchover. We will continue to work with these stakeholders as the digital radio switchover programme develops.

We have also committed to a full cost benefit analysis of the digital radio switchover, including the impact on in-car listening, before any switchover date is set.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Switchover Help Scheme for digital switchover has cost. [303450]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme is funded through £603 million ringfenced within the TV licence fee income over the period of switchover.

Switchover Help Scheme expenditure is published in the BBC's Annual Report and Accounts, published on the BBC website. As of 31 March 2009, the cumulative total spent by the Help Scheme was £29.5 million. This figure includes expenditure in 2007-08 and is net of

£0.8 million received from those eligible people who are not in receipt of income related benefits and who therefore pay a £40 fee.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) its executive agency is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) its executive agency have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302170]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

The Department currently does not have any vehicles for which it is directly responsible, and as such employees who choose to use motor travel for travel on official business must use their privately owned motor vehicle. If an employee chooses to use their vehicle, they must satisfy certain insurance conditions details of which are made on the Department's internal website. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure they understand and fulfil these conditions. Employees are required to declare when making claim for travel and subsistence that they know and understand the insurance requirements, and that they are covered accordingly. There is no requirement for employees to demonstrate that they are licensed to drive. No specific guidance is issued to employees on road safety, nor does the Department monitor compliance, however under the Civil Service Code, the Department does expect its employees to accord with the law at all times when on official business and should incidents arise behave appropriately. No accidents while driving on official business have been recorded, and there is no expectation that an employee will report an accident as the Department has been indemnified by the employee's insurance. Should the employee be injured in an accident, the employee will become subject to the Department's sickness absence policy.

The Royal Parks

Staff in The Royal Parks (TRP) who are required to drive TRP vehicles must first undertake induction training. As part of the induction, staff must show a current valid driving licence. Thereafter Line Managers are required to monitor their staff for compliance with the training and inspect the driving licence once a year. Confirmation of the check is recorded. Accidents must be reported to the Line Manager and the Fleet Manager and each vehicle has a log book to record such occurrences. All accidents are investigated. Staff are not encouraged to use their own vehicles for work but exceptionally where they do they are required to confirm they have appropriate insurance as part of our reimbursement procedures.

UK School Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 37-38W, on the UK School Games, if he will provide a detailed breakdown of the estimated final cost of the £3.3 million spent on the UK School Games in 2009. [303370]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Youth Sport Trust has confirmed that the final cost of the 2009 UK School Games was approximately £3.1 million. A breakdown of the expenditure is set out in the table:

2009

Description	*Cost (£)*
Event Management, Delivery and Planning	1,873,000
Travel and accommodation	795,000
Medical costs	60,000
Catering	82,000
Venue costs, Sports services—timing, equipment etc.	450,000
Other—External staff, IT, printed materials, insurance, legal fees etc.	136,000
Event management	350,000
Competition Step Change	675,000
Development work—payments and support to national governing bodies	475,000
Competition venues look, clothing and kit	200,000
Raise Profile and Promote PE and School Sport	227,000
Event production, media, website etc.	227,000
Olympic/Paralympic spirit	190,000
Work with British Olympic Foundation, including Athlete Village, ambassadors etc.	80,000
Opening/closing ceremonies	110,000
Development of volunteering	50,000
(Operational costs of volunteering are covered under event management)	
Child Protection and Welfare	50,000
Including work with NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit	
Other (Disability Commission, monitoring and evaluation, miscellaneous etc.)	45,000
Total expenditure	3,110,000

NORTHERN IRELAND

Children: Abuse

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* authorities in the Republic of Ireland on the implications for matters within his Department's responsibility of the report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse in the Republic of Ireland. [302484]

Mr. Woodward: To date neither I nor my officials have held discussions with either the NI Executive or the Irish Government on this subject. On 12 November the Minister for Health, Social Service and Public Safety copied me a letter that he had received from a solicitor in Northern Ireland concerning this matter.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300206]

Mr. Woodward: The assets of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, that have either been sold or are planned to be sold in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

£

	Description	*Net book value at 31 March 2009*	*Actual/expected revenue*
2009-10	House	314,450	[1]300,000
	House	230,200	[1]227,000
	House	227,000	[1]190,000
	House	101,050	[1]97,000
2010-11	House	177,300	[2]—

[1] Sold

[2] For Sale £177,300

Determining which assets will be sold in 2011-12 to 2013-14 will form part of the planning process for the next spending review.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300930]

Paul Goggins: There is no separate OEP target in this SR period beyond the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) savings of £125 million as part of our contribution to the CSR07 target of £35 billion, which is reported on in the Autumn Performance Report.

In response to the Operational Efficiency Programme, the Department's Business Performance Review Team (BPRT) commenced a scoping study to consider the delivery of the Department's back office functions in September 2009. The study will include IT, Finance, Human Resources, Travel Services, Estates Management, Procurement, Legal Services, Information Services and current assets, including accommodation. The assessment will take into account current and future business, organisational, and customer requirements.

The study may provide options for a series of future detailed operational reviews that will examine performance and make recommendations for measurable improvements in service delivery to include the simplification, standardisation, and rationalisation of functions to drive efficiency. Identified savings will contribute to the £9 billion which will be delivered in the next spending period.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302408]

Paul Goggins: The cost to my Department in the 2008-09 year for maintaining the website was £6,456.00. As this is a contracted out service the anticipated costs for 2010-11 will be the same as 2008-09.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302024]

Mr. Woodward: In the Northern Ireland Office Core Department there are no scientific advisers or scientific posts.

There are scientific posts in one of the Department's agencies, Forensic Science Northern Ireland. The requested information in relation to these posts is as follows:

(a) The Forensic Science Agency does not have specific scientific advisers.

(b) There are 144 civil servants, of which there are seven lead scientists, in scientific posts in the Forensic Science Agency.

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300838]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, currently uses two contracts with private hire taxi companies. These contracts belong to the Department of Finance and Personnel in Belfast and the Cabinet Office in London. The names of the taxi companies cannot be disclosed for staff security reasons.

The increase in expenditure on taxis in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) followed a review in 2007 when the Department adopted a policy which made greater use of taxis rather than private hire cars. While this change in policy has led to an increase in the cost of taxis, it has generated estimated whole year net savings of £150,000

The following table shows the total expenditure incurred by the NIO against these contracts in each of the last three years:

	£
2006-07	34,716.05
2007-08	49,555.89
2008-09	111,766.27

Each member of staff is advised that, before any business related journey is made, the most cost effective means of transport must be considered. Where the use of public transport or private car is not possible or economic, then the journey may be made by taxi.

The NIO keeps the cost of travel on official business under regular review.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302747]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has not made any payments in relation to vehicle clamping charges during the last 10 years.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* full-time reserve police officers there have been in each constituency in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001; [303465]

(2) what percentage of the budget of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is spent on administrative costs; [303466]

(3) how many police officers in Northern Ireland are assigned to duties other than front-line policing; [303467]

(4) how many attacks there have been on *(a)* police officers, *(b)* traffic wardens and *(c)* Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency workers in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005; [303469]

(5) how many disabled people are employed as *(a)* regular police officers and *(b)* full-time reservists in the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [303473]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and copies of his letters will be placed in the Library of the House.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Fraud

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue lost to the Exchequer through alcohol fraud in the tax year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [302663]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimates of the loss of revenue arising from alcohol fraud across all alcoholic beverages are not available.

Estimates of the spirits level of fraud in 2006-07 were published by HMRC in "Measuring Indirect Tax Gaps—2008" in October 2008 which is available in the House of Commons Library. This is the most recent available estimate.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the HM Revenue and Customs strategy on alcohol fraud since April 2009. [302664]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury continually monitors alcohol fraud and other related issues, and any changes would be announced at the time of the pre-Budget Report.

Capital Gains Tax: Second Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes to ensure that all second home owners who should pay capital gains tax do so. [302467]

Mr. Timms: Second homeowners self-assess their liability to capital gains tax (CGT) on the disposal of a second home. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) may inquire into returns where a disposal has been returned to check that the liability to tax is correct.

In addition, HMRC uses external databases of property sales to identify disposals of properties where no gain on the disposal has been notified to the Department, but where there is no evidence that the property is the individual's main or only residence.

The Department is currently running a project to check whether income and capital gains have been properly returned on certain types of property. To date, almost 4,500 cases with omitted disposals have been settled and around 2,500 cases are currently under inquiry.

Child Benefit

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of applications for child benefit were completed within *(a)* four, *(b)* eight and *(c)* 12 weeks in each of the last three years; [302233]

(2) what guidelines he has issued in respect of the maximum number of weeks required to process applications for child benefit from *(a)* all applicants and *(b)* parents of adopted children. [302235]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

For information on the time taken to pay new child benefit claims in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 894W; the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 356W; and the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1046-47W.

HM Revenue and Customs aims to pay 66 per cent. of new child benefit claims in nine working days in 2009-10 and all claims in an average of 20 calendar days.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of applications for child benefit from parents of adopted children were processed within the target maximum number of weeks in each of the last three years; [302234]

(2) how many applications for child benefit were received from parents of adopted children in each of the last three years. [302236]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs does not record whether a child is adopted.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will set targets for the time taken by organisations to transfer child care voucher payments to childcare providers. [303345]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not administer any schemes to provide childcare vouchers to parents. As such, neither HMRC nor HMT are in a position to set targets of the nature requested.

Floods: Cumbria

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the uninsured losses incurred as a consequence of the recent floods in Cumbria; [302147]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people affected by the recent flood in Cumbria who were unable to obtain insurance for *(a)* their buildings, *(b)* the contents of their buildings and *(c)* neither their buildings nor the contents of those buildings because of the risk of flooding to their properties; and if he will make a statement. [302148]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No such estimate has been made. However, the Government are sympathetic to those affected by the Cumbrian floods and have allocated an additional £1 million Community Recovery Fund towards the region.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303331]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 28 July and 16 September 2009, sent on behalf of his constituent, Ms Jolanta Jones. [302834]

Mr. Timms: The letters were transferred upon receipt to the Department for Work and Pensions as the subject was the responsibility of that Department.

Public Expenditure

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue from each tax was raised by his Department from receipts in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* England in each of the last five financial years; and how much such revenue was spent in each part of the UK in each such year. [303431]

Mr. Byrne: Figures for tax receipts by tax at the UK level are set out in table C6 of the 2009 Budget Report (HC 407). A breakdown of all taxes by country is not available. Figures on public spending by country are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 7630).

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the first compensatory payments to be made in respect of Wales under the Barnett formula following his reconsideration of convergence in spending per head. [303429]

Mr. Byrne: As the Secretary of State for Wales announced to Parli[illegible] 26 November 2009, convergence in spending p[illegible]d will be assessed in the next spending review although convergence is not currently expected.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria his Department uses to determine whether Wales is disproportionately disadvantaged in the allocation of funding under the Barnett formula. [303430]

Mr. Byrne: Identifiable public spending per head in Wales is 14 per cent. above England. Public spending has more than doubled since devolution. The Government will assess spending trends in the next spending review as announced by the Secretary of State for Wales on 26 November.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the full assessment of the extent of convergence under the Barnett formula in respect of Wales as part of his evaluation of the relative position of Wales in respect of the level of funding allocated to parts of the UK under that formula to be published. [303432]

Mr. Byrne: The Government will assess spending trends per head in the next spending review as announced to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Wales on 26 November.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to undertake the first evaluation of the relative position of Wales in respect of the level of funding allocated to parts of the UK under the Barnett formula. [303433]

Mr. Byrne: The Government will assess spending trends per head in the next spending review as announced to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Wales on 26 November.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal consultations HM Revenue and Customs has run in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; and which HM Revenue and Customs official has had oversight of each such consultation. [303065]

Mr. Timms: Details of HM Revenue and Customs' formal and informal consultations can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/index.htm

Each consultation document includes contact details as well as a named Departmental Consultation Coordinator in line with the Government's Code of Practice on consultation.

Revenue and Customs: Labour Turnover

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the median length of service of HM Revenue and Customs full-time employees is in each region and country of the UK. [302462]

Mr. Timms: The median length of service of HM Revenue and Customs full-time employees in each region and country of the UK is shown in the following table.

Region/country	*Median length of service in years*
East	21
East Midlands	18
London	20
North East	10
North West	14
South East	20
South West	20
West Midlands	20
Yorkshire and Humberside	19
England	18
Northern Ireland	14
Scotland	9
Wales	20
United Kingdom	18

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Howard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has made to the European Commission on the legal status of the furnished holiday letting rules. [302808]

Mr. Timms: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W.

Mr. Howard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legal advice his Department took in advance of the decision to abolish tax relief on furnished holiday lettings. [302809]

Mr. Timms: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1288W.

Mr. Howard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the effect on the tourism industry of the abolition of *(a)* the furnished holiday lettings rules and *(b)* tax relief on furnished holiday lettings. [302810]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials hold discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

An impact assessment will be published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report together with draft legislation.

Mr. Howard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the financial effect of the repeal of furnished holiday letting rules on persons operating holiday lets. [302983]

Mr. Timms: I refer the right hon. and learned Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 75W.

Taxation: Pensions

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the £9 billion disregard for employer national insurance contributions to registered pension schemes in Table A3.1 of the 2009 Budget Red Book is attributable to higher rate taxpayers; [302507]

(2) what percentage of the £20.3 billion approved pension scheme tax relief for 2008-09 in Table A3.1 of the 2009 Budget in attributable to higher rate tax relief. [302508]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 421W.

It is not possible to provide such a breakdown for other components of the overall cost of registered pension scheme tax relief, nor is it possible to provide it for the disregard for employer national insurance contributions to registered pension schemes.

Tobacco

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he takes of the limits on the maximum quantities of *(a)* cigarettes and *(b)* hand-rolling tobacco which may be brought into other EU member states by an individual for personal consumption from within the EU in setting the limit on the maximum quantity which may be brought into the UK for personal consumption from other EU member states. [302695]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under EU law, there are no limits on the quantities of cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco private individuals can buy and take with them when they travel between EU countries, as long as the products purchased are for personal use and not for resale.

To determine whether these products are for the own use of the traveller, Member States must take account of all relevant factors including the quantity of the products. As such, Member States may lay down guide levels, solely as a form of evidence, which cannot be lower than the following quantities: 800 cigarettes, 1 kg smoking tobacco. These levels are not limits, but simply an indicator that the goods may be intended for a commercial purpose.

The UK has chosen a guide level of 3,200 cigarettes and 3 kg of hand-rolling tobacco. These levels represent around six months' usage for the average smoker.

VAT

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effect on the economy of applying a reduced rate of value added tax to visitor attractions, accommodation and restaurants. [303122]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made. VAT is a broad-based tax on consumer expenditure and reliefs from it have always been strictly limited. Where reduced rates are available, these are applied only where they provide the most well-targeted and cost-effective support for the Government's policy objectives, compared to other measures.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the merits of amending the rate at which Value Added Tax is charged on equipment for *(a)* domestic renewable energy production and *(b)* increasing levels of energy efficiency as a mechanism for encouraging the use of such equipment. [303403]

Mr. Timms: VAT is a broad-based tax on consumer expenditure and reliefs from it have always been strictly limited; the Government continue to keep all taxes under review.

A value added tax rate of 5 per cent. applies to the domestic installation of certain renewable energy production technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, air and ground source heat pumps and wood fuelled boilers. However, when such technologies are bought for do-it-yourself installation purposes, the standard VAT rate (currently of 15 per cent.) instead applies.

European VAT agreements do not currently allow a reduced VAT rate for the do-it-yourself installation of renewable energy production technologies or indeed for any products or materials designed to help increase levels of energy efficiency.

The Government continue to make the case for changes to these European agreements to allow for a wider application of reduced VAT rates to energy-efficient products and energy-saving materials.

VAT: Postal Services

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the written ministerial statement of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1WS, on ECOFIN, what political guidelines will be used to determine whether the UK will be required to impose value added tax on postal services. [303288]

Mr. Timms: The VAT treatment of postal services was not discussed at the ECOFIN meeting held on 10 November, although it is on the agenda of the ECOFIN meeting to be held on 2 December.

The UK believes that supplies made by the public postal services should continue to be exempt from VAT.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of enabling claimants of the childcare element of the working tax credit to continue to receive it for 12 weeks after they are made redundant; and if he will make a statement. [303059]

Mr. Timms: In light of the complex analysis required, an estimate would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unemployed people were claiming the childcare element of the working tax credit in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [303060]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. working tax credit, including the child care element, is generally conditional upon a lone parent, or each member of a couple, working at least 16 hours a week. However, payment may continue for a period of four weeks where the hours a person works fall below 16 hours a week, or if they stop work.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's programmes in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [303352]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID's latest Afghanistan Country Programme Evaluation was published in May 2009 and is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/Afghanistan/

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302409]

Mr. Michael Foster: For the cost of maintaining the Department for International Development's (DFID's) website in 2008-09 I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 832W.

The DFID website is maintained in house from existing resources. The Department is also responsible for the Developments magazine website and the Research4Development websites. Projected costs for these two websites are £566,512.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to *(a)* Brunswick Group, *(b)* Weber Shandwick, *(c)* LLM Communications, *(d)* Financial Dynamics, *(e)* Cubitt Consulting and *(f)* Bell Pottinger Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract under which such payments have been made. [302210]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any payments to the listed organisations in the last 12 months.

United Nations: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 27W, on the United Nations: females, if his Department will prepare a list of UK women nationals to be considered for nomination to senior positions on *(a)* the Committee on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and *(b)* the United Nations Agency for Women. [303347]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government are committed to promoting a good quality field of candidates for the heads and senior leadership of all institutional institutions. In all cases we will promote open, transparent and merit-based processes. In some cases we may wish to promote a UK candidate where they are best qualified for the post. We have no plans to promote a UK candidate for either of these two appointments.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many coalition helicopters which can be called on by UK forces are available in Helmand province; and if he will make a statement. [302093]

Bill Rammell: It is not possible to provide details of the numbers of helicopters available to UK forces in Helmand province for operational security reasons; the release of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of our armed forces.

I can confirm that, in addition to our own helicopters, we draw on helicopter assets provided by our allies, including the Dutch, Canadians, Australians and Americans. Helicopter support to international security assistance force operations in southern Afghanistan is provided from a multi-national pool of helicopters allocated by regional command (south).

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has provided to the *(a)* Air and *(b)* Sea Cadets in each year since 1997; and how much such funding has been allocated for each of the next two years. [300276]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In broad terms, the MOD spends approximately one in every 250 defence pounds on Cadets. The Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) has received the following funding from the Department:

Period	*Amount received (£ million)*
1997-08	18
1998-09	19
1999-2000	18
2000-01	19
2001-02	20
2002-03	22
2003-04	25
2004-05	27
2005-06	28
2006-07	31
2007-08	26
2008-09	23
2009-10	23

The figure for 2006-07 includes a funding allocation of £1.6 million for infrastructure modernisation and an Adult Volunteer Recruitment Campaign.

With effect from FY 2008-09 the funding of works services (comprising maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of the ACO estate of over 1,000 buildings) was transferred to Defence Estates and no longer falls within the ACO budget. Service manpower pay (estimated at approximately £3 million currently) was, from FY 2007-08, transferred to the Single Point Accounting system covering all RAF personnel and thus no longer forms part of the ACO budget. These funding allocations have been changed to reflect a more efficient way of paying for essential elements. The overall level of funding provided for cadet activities has not fallen and reflects our continued commitment to the Air Cadet Organisation.

The Marine Society and Sea Cadets are a registered charity and are supported by the MOD through a Grant in Aid. Figures prior to 2006 are not held in the format requested and could only be provided through a manual search of earlier records at disproportionate cost.

Period	*Amount received (£ million)*
2006-07	8.3
2007-08	8.4
2008-09	8.7
2009-10	9.0

In respect of future allocations, the available resources for Defence expenditure are set during spending rounds. The most recent comprehensive spending review set the Department's budget for the financial years 2008-11.

Departmental expenditure plans for 2010-11 and beyond have not yet been agreed.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiff 2 armoured vehicles are *(a)* deployed in Afghanistan, *(b)* owned by his Department and *(c)* on order. [302816]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I am withholding details on the number of Mastiff 2 protected vehicles deployed in Afghanistan as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. As at 23 November 2009, the Department owned 163 Mastiff 2s, with a further 35 on order.

Chelsea Barracks

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what specific purposes revenue raised from the sale of Chelsea barracks in 2007-08 has been allocated. [303195]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2074W. There is no specific link between disposal receipts and individual elements of defence expenditure. Exceptionally, however, the disposal of Chelsea barracks for a total of £959 million, was included in the plans of the Department and underpinned investment in service accommodation of £250 million in 2007-08.

It was agreed as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review that a further £550 million should be invested over the following three years with plans for the balance of the proceeds of £159 million, to be agreed with HM Treasury as part of the next spending review.

The disposal of Chelsea barracks has, therefore, secured the major investment in service accommodation through Project SLAM (single living accommodation modernisation), the service housing upgrade programme and many other significant accommodation projects in the UK and overseas to improve the living conditions for our service personnel.

Chinook Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to upgrade former USAF CH-47D Chinook helicopters to the UK configuration. [303007]

Bill Rammell: The UK does not own any former USAF CH-47D Chinook helicopters and therefore has no plans to upgrade any of them to the current UK configuration.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to purchase new Chinook helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [303008]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We have made clear in recent months that we are re-examining our future helicopter plans. We anticipate concluding this work shortly and will make any announcements thereafter. In the meantime, options for replacement for the two Chinook recently lost on operations are currently being pursued, and we are continuing to take measures to improve the capability of our Chinook fleet. This includes fitting the entire fleet with more powerful engines and modern avionic and cockpit displays, enhancing its ability to operate in the toughest of operational conditions. The delivery of eight reverted Chinook Mk3s in 2010 will also provide the Chinook fleet with increased resilience and the capacity to increase our heavy lift capability on operations.

Colombia: Military Aid

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Richmond Park of 24 November 1999, *Official Report*, column 115W, on Colombia, when the UK ceased to provide the Colombian security forces with advisory visits and information exchanges on counter-guerilla strategy. [300413]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The answer cited in the hon. Member's question refers to an element of a UK Army visit, which took place in 1997. The UK has not subsequently provided any specific counter-guerrilla or counter-insurgency assistance to the Colombian security forces.

Defence Support Group

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to sell the Defence Support Group; and if he will make a statement. [303002]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We have no current plans to sell the Defence Support Group.

Defence: International Cooperation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with other members of the European Defence Agency on joining the joint airlift capability. [303006]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The European Defence Agency's work on military strategic airlift is known as the European Air Transport Fleet (EATF) programme. We hold discussions with allies regularly on defence matters, including on the EATF. The UK's position, confirmed at formal European Defence Agency meetings, is that we have no current plans to participate in the EATF programme. We will continue to monitor the programme and keep our position under review.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301847]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. The number of page views and visitors during 2008-09 is detailed as follows. This analysis complies with the guidance issued by the Central Office of Information (COI) on the methodology for identifying website usage in response to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Sixteenth Report. This guidance can be found at the following link:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmpubacc/143/14302.htm

Website	*URL*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors/ browsers*
MOD corporate website[1]	www.mod.uk	27,201,182	3,732,511
Royal Navy	www.royalnavy.mod.uk	52,415,075	5,693,784
British Army	www.army.mod.uk	68,670516	8,702,424
Royal Air Force	www.raf.mod.uk	87,536,440	16,109,392

[1] Page impression figure includes robot/spider activity.

A number of other websites are run by different parts of the Ministry of Defence, but these are not managed centrally, and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on the employment of special advisers to Ministers in the last 12 months. [301949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2008-09 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 74WS.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the capital receipts in respect of Northern Ireland referred to in his Winter Supplementary Estimate for 2009-10 were lower than in his Department's estimates for 2008-09. [302863]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The difference between the main estimates and those at winter supplementary estimates is because the Government have decided to gift, subject to parliamentary approval, a number of sites in Northern Ireland, which are no longer required for defence purposes, to the Northern Ireland Executive. The MOD has agreed £15 million capital relief from HM Treasury in respect of the consequent reduction in receipts.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what budget headings funding from the non-budget non-voted grants-in-aid to the *(a)* Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, *(b)* National Army Museum and *(c)* Royal Hospital Chelsea referred to in his Department's Winter Supplementary Estimate for 2009-10 will be spent. [302864]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The additional sums sought in the Winter Supplementary Estimate cover the following:

(a) Reserve Forces and Cadets Association relates to the maintenance budget for the Volunteer Estate which was finalised too late for inclusion in the Main Estimates. The balance was for additional in-year staff and IT costs for the Association, vehicle provision for the Army Cadet Force and utility and other support costs for the Volunteer estate.

(b) National Army Museum Costs were for replacement boilers, removal of asbestos and staff costs.

(c) Royal Hospital Chelsea covers higher utilities, superannuation costs and maintenance of the infirmary and care of pensioners in the Margaret Thatcher infirmary.

These costs are additional to the grants given in main estimates which covered pay and the general running costs of the organisations such as utilities, maintenance, works plus minor capital items.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302975]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD's Press Office and Special Advisers are provided with office facilities within the main building, the costs of which cannot be separately identified. No specific or additional provision was made for these facilities in Financial Year 2008-09.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301927]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has 56 scientific adviser posts providing direct advice to military commanders on a number of operations. Seven civil service scientists are currently deployed to Afghanistan. Scientific advisers are part of a community of an estimated 3,000 scientific posts within the civil service in the MOD and its Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) trading fund.

Hercules Aircraft: Training

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the contract for the construction of the building to house the C130J simulator at RAF Brize Norton to be signed. [302759]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is anticipated that the contract for the C130J Training and Mission Rehearsal Facility at RAF Brize Norton, which will eventually house the C130J Flight Simulators and other training facilities currently at RAF Lyneham, will be awarded early next year.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302756]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD policy is that the driver is responsible for paying fines, including clamping, speeding and parking.

The Department has not, therefore, paid any such charges.

Iraq: Interpreters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what protection is provided for translators previously engaged by UK forces in Iraq. [300333]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We take our responsibilities to the Iraqi interpreters who worked with UK forces in Iraq extremely seriously.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced in his statement of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 23, we introduced a policy that allowed eligible former Iraqi interpreters to settle in the UK through the Gateway protection programme. Currently some 589 Iraqi interpreters and their families, including those used by the other employing departments based in Iraq, have chosen to settle in the UK under this programme.

Merlin Helicopters: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have taken part in Exercise Merlin Vortex. [302021]

Bill Rammell: Exercise Merlin Vortex was a pre-deployment training exercise to prepare the Merlin force for deployment to Afghanistan. Four hundred and twenty-two service personnel took part in the exercise, comprising 177 aircrew and 245 ground support staff. In addition, the exercise was supported by two civilian doctors.

The deployment of the Merlin force to Afghanistan began in November and will be complete by the end of 2009.

Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy fixed-wing aircraft are based in the UK. [302852]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table gives the total number of Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force manned fixed-wing aircraft that are based in the UK as at 31 October 2009. The total Harrier GR9 and Hawk fleets, which are operated by both Royal Navy and Royal Air Force units, are included in the Royal Air Force column. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and contractor owned fleets are not included.

Service	*Total number of UK based manned aircraft*
Royal Navy	9
Army	16
Royal Air Force	620

A proportion of the Army and Royal Air Force manned United Kingdom based fixed-wing fleet are currently deployed outside the UK on expeditionary operations.

Military Alliances

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* detail and *(b)* scope is of the defence agreements between the UK and (i) Abu Dhabi and (ii) the United Arab Emirates. [302865]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The UK has a Defence Cooperation Accord (DCA) with UAE signed in 1996 by the then Secretary of State, which sets out our arrangements for security co-operation. Earlier this year we also agreed a memorandum of understanding with the UAE armed forces which cover arrangements for UK forces to utilise air bases in the UAE, including for some sustainment flights to Afghanistan. We do not have any separate agreements or arrangements with the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Puma Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first upgraded HC2 Puma helicopters will enter service; and by what date the entire fleet will be upgraded. [303003]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The first Puma Mk2 aircraft will enter squadron service in 2012. The upgrade of the entire fleet is planned to complete in 2014.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department is of the upgrade programme to Puma helicopters; and what the cost per upgraded helicopter is. [303004]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Puma HC Mk2 Demonstration and Manufacture phase is expected to cost some £300 million. This includes the one-off costs associated with developing the required modifications and undertaking the trials activity necessary to certify the aircraft; the provision of initial support and conversion training for aircrew and maintainers; and the cost of modifying each helicopter. Each aircraft will cost in the order of £10 million to upgrade taking into account the above one-off costs.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of the current review of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [302317]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This is a new Value for Money Study, the terms of reference for which have not yet been agreed.

Wildcat Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the delivery of the new Wildcat helicopters ordered by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [302795]

Bill Rammell: The Lynx Wildcat project remains on track to meet its time, cost and performance targets. There has been no escalation in price and the planned in-service date remains at January 2014. The first flight of the trials aircraft took place successfully on 12 November 2009.

PRIME MINISTER

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Prime Minister how many Christmas parties his Office plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300862]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan) on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 582W.

Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing Street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

Commonwealth

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what his policy is on the role of the UK in the Commonwealth; [301098]

(2) what bilateral meetings he plans to hold during the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago; [301099]

(3) what objectives he has set for the outcome of the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago. [301104]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 113WS.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* individuals other than Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Office and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301170]

The Prime Minister: I had meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301191]

The Prime Minister: I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements, including regular use of trains. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers".

Trinidad and Tobago: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many civil servants he expects to accompany him to the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago; [301100]

(2) which Ministers he expects to accompany him to the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago. [301103]

The Prime Minister: Information on all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 is published on an annual basis. Information for 2009-10 will be published in the normal way.

Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which Ministers accompanied him to the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda; [301101]

(2) how many civil servants accompanied him to the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda. [301102]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the annual list of overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers, costing in excess of £500, for 2007-08, published by the Government. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to reduce the time taken for the Child Support Agency to pass on to resident parents payments which are not administered by means of electronic transfer. [300250]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to reduce the time taken for the Child Support Agency to pass on to resident parents payments which are not administered by means of electronic transfer. [300250]

When the CSA receive the child maintenance payment from the non-resident parent by an electronic transfer it takes up to one day to process the payment and pass it on to the parent with care. Where a cheque is received it can take up to three days to clear.

Parents with care are encouraged to receive maintenance payments from the CSA by electronic transfer into their bank accounts, rather than by cheque which can take two days to produce and then be posted to the parent with care before the funds can be drawn.

The CSA's preferred method of payment for non-resident parents using the collection service is direct debit or a deduction from earnings order, since both are significantly more reliable and resilient than other methods. The benefits of using direct debit or a deduction from earnings are promoted when agreeing a method of payment with non-resident parents.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what overseas visits she has undertaken since taking up her post. [301781]

Jim Knight: I can confirm that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has not undertaken any overseas visits since taking up her post.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has plans to direct parents in receipt of out-of-work benefits with children who *(a)* are in receipt of an award of disability living allowance mobility component and *(b)* have an award of disability living allowance under appeal to undertake work-related activity. [302789]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* We announced during passage of the Welfare Reform Act 2009 that parents with a child in receipt of any rate of care component of disability living allowance will be exempt from the requirement to undertake work-related activity while claiming income support.

Those with children in receipt of the mobility component of disability living allowance, but no care component, will be required to undertake work related activity.

Some parents will be exempt from work-related activity, including those with a child in receipt of any level care component of disability living allowance. If an award of disability living allowance is removed we will require the parent to undertake work-related activity.

Disability Living Allowance: Lone Parents

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for what reasons she has decided to exempt lone parents from benefit conditionality when their child is receiving the care component of disability living allowance; when she intends to bring forward regulations setting out the exemptions; and if she will make a statement; [301720]

(2) for what reasons she has decided not to exempt from benefit conditionality lone parents of children receiving the mobility component of disability living allowance; when she intends to bring forward regulations setting out the exemptions; and if she will make a statement. [301721]

Helen Goodman: Under existing regulations, lone parents who would otherwise be required to claim jobseeker's allowance, but who have a child in receipt of the highest or middle rate care component of disability living allowance, are not required to be available for work in return for benefit. The entitlement conditions to the care component of disability living allowance lay out clear expectations of, at a minimum, a requirement for attention for a significant portion of the day, some or all of which could be expected to be carried out by a parent.

We announced during the passage of the Welfare Reform Act 2009 that lone parents with a child in receipt of any rate of care component of disability living allowance would be exempted from the requirement to undertake work-related activity while claiming income support. Work-related activity will be piloted initially in four areas, and we will bring forward the relevant regulations in the new year.

With respect to the mobility component of disability living allowance, the effect on a parent's availability to undertake work-related activity is less. The higher rate does not attach itself to a requirement for help from another person, and although the lower rate component requires guidance or supervision from another person when out of doors, unlike with care component there is no minimum threshold for the time or effort required to guide or supervise a child. We are therefore not providing for a blanket exemption from work-related activity or, in due course, availability for work. However, a decision-maker must, under the Welfare Reform Act 2009, take into account health and disability issues when considering whether there is good cause for failure to comply with a direction to undertake work-related activity or, in due course, for turning down a job; and the issue should have been taken into account before this, in agreeing an action plan or, in due course, a jobseeker's agreement that takes into account the wellbeing of the child.

Employment and Support Allowance: Dartford

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dartford who have submitted claims for employment and support allowance since its introduction have appealed against the outcome of the work capability assessment *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully. [301770]

Jonathan Shaw: Data on appeals against the work capability assessment decision are held at regional level and figures for the south-east region are provided. For people in the south-east who started an employment and support allowance claim since its introduction in October 2008 up to February 2009, who were found fit for work at the work capability assessment and have submitted and completed an appeal the figures are:

Successful appeals: 100

Unsuccessful appeals: 120

These figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and are consistent with the national figures published in October 2009.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to Tribunals Service and heard, a very limited volume of appeals heard data are held currently. Volumes will increase in the coming months as more appeals are processed giving a more robust picture of appeal volumes and outcomes.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dartford who have submitted claims for employment and support allowance since its introduction have *(a)* not met the work capability assessment qualification criteria, *(b)* met the work capability assessment criteria for the work-related activity group and *(c)* met the work capability assessment qualification criteria for the support group. [301772]

Jonathan Shaw: Data on outcomes from the medical assessment process for Employment and Support Allowance claims are held at regional level and figures for the South East region are provided. For people in the South

East who started an employment and support allowance claim since its introduction in October 2008 up to February 2009 and who completed the assessment process the figures are:

Number of people found fit for work: 5,400

Number of people in the work related activity group: 2,700

Number of people in the support group: 1,100

These figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and are consistent with the national figures published in October 2009.

These data should be considered as provisional since they are based on recorded advice from ATOS Healthcare, rather than the decision maker's final determination. The final outcomes of cases may change. This will be further compounded by reconsiderations following additional medical evidence and the outcomes of appeals. Full guidance on the national figures is included in the published statistics.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 30 September 2009, when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding a constituent. [300617]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 30 September 2009 when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding a constituent. [300617]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Poverty

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* children, *(b)* people and *(c)* elderly people in (i) rural areas and (ii) England who live in poverty. [301860]

Helen Goodman: Estimates of the numbers of people, elderly people and children in rural areas living in poverty are derived from the Family Resources Survey produced by the Department for Work and Pensions. The Survey is available on the Department's website and a copy is also in the Library:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2007_08/frs_2007_08_report.pdf

Table 1: Proportion of various groups below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income in 2007-08 for rural areas and England, before housing costs

		Percentage
	Rural	England
Children	16	22
Pensioners	21	23
All individuals	15	18

Table 2: Proportion of various groups below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income in 2007-08 for rural areas and England, after housing costs

		Percentage
	Rural	England
Children	25	32
Pensioners	17	18
All individuals	19	23

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children, pensioners and individuals in low income have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children have been in poverty in accordance with the Government's definition of child poverty in each *(a)* year since 1999 and *(b)* of the last eight quarters. [301789]

Helen Goodman: Poverty statistics, published in the households below average income series, are only produced on an annual basis therefore quarterly information is not available.

The Government's measures of child poverty are:

The number of children in relative low income households defined as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent of contemporary median income, before housing costs (shown in table 1).

The number of children in absolute low-income households defined as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income held constant in real terms, before housing costs (shown in table 2).

The number of children in relative low-income households and in material deprivation defined as families with a material deprivation score of 25 or more and a household income below 70 per cent. contemporary median income, before housing costs (shown in table 3). Note that this information is only available from 2004-05.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children in the United Kingdom living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 1999-2000 to 2007-08, before housing costs

	Before housing costs	
Period	Number (million)	Percentage
1999-2000	3.4	26
2000-01	3.1	23

Table 1: Number and percentage of children in the United Kingdom living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 1999-2000 to 2007-08, before housing costs

	Before housing costs	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2001-02	3.0	23
2002-03	2.9	23
2003-04	2.9	22
2004-05	2.7	21
2005-06	2.8	22
2006-07	2.9	22
2007-08	2.9	23

Table 2: Number and percentage of children in the United Kingdom living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income held constant in real terms, 1999-2000 to 2007-08, before housing costs

	Before housing costs	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
1999-2000	3.1	23
2000-01	2.5	19
2001-02	2.0	15
2002-03	1.8	14
2003-04	1.8	14
2004-05	1.7	13
2005-06	1.6	13
2006-07	1.7	13
2007/08	1.7	13

Table 3: Percentage and number of children in the United Kingdom falling below thresholds of low income and material deprivation, 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Before housing costs	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2004-05	2.2	17
2005-06	2.1	16
2006-07	2.0	16
2007-08	2.2	17

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI), sourced from the Family Resources Survey. The Family Resources Survey is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for HBAI figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions' publication HBAI series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the HBAI series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children in low income have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
7. Proportions of children in low income have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. A family is in low income and material deprivation if they have a material deprivation score of 25 or more and a household income below 70 per cent. contemporary median income, before housing costs. Figures before 2004-05 are not available.

Poverty: Farmers

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the number of farmers in England who live in poverty. [301861]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

In 2007-08 for England, 25 per cent. of farm households were below the modified low income threshold (gross income before housing costs).

Social Security Benefits: Elderly

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the *(a)* care and *(b)* mobility component of (i) attendance and (ii) disability living allowance for people over 65 in England in (A) 2007-08 and (B) 2008-09. [300398]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Expenditure on the care/mobility component of attendance allowance and disability living allowance for claimants aged 65 and over in England

£ million

	In cash terms		*In 2009-10 prices*	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Disability living allowance: care component	885	983	916	993
Disability living allowance: mobility component	1,179	1,270	1,220	1,283
Attendance allowance: care component	3,675	3,924	3,804	3,963

Notes:

1. Claimants on disability living allowance may receive both a care and mobility component.
2. Attendance allowance does not have a mobility component.

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many eligible *(a)* men and *(b)* women have not received backdated winter fuel payments in respect of previous years. [302639]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The information requested is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Energy Security

15. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the General Affairs Council on policy to improve EU energy security; and if he will make a statement. [302608]

Chris Bryant: The September General Affairs and External Relations Council reconfirmed security of energy supply as a priority and reviewed progress. The October European Council endorsed initiatives to diversify supplies, increase energy efficiency and improve functioning of EU energy markets. A new EU Energy Action Plan is planned for 2010.

Gaza

16. **Mrs. McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the opening of border crossings into Gaza. [302609]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to call on the Government of Israel to open the crossings into Gaza more fully. The Prime Minister raised this directly with the Israeli Prime Minister on 15 October 2009; I did the same on 27 October 2009 with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister. Securing better access to Gaza will remain a priority for the Government.

Nuclear Non-proliferation

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on nuclear non-proliferation policy. [302597]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary most recently discussed nuclear non-proliferation with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in London on 11 October 2009. Mrs. Clinton said after that meeting that British leadership had been pivotal in the run up to the historic Security Council session chaired by President Barack Obama on 24 September 2009, which unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1887 and committed us to work toward a world without nuclear weapons.

17. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on nuclear non-proliferation policy. [302611]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I regularly discuss nuclear non-proliferation with EU colleagues most recently with Guido Westerwelle, the new German Foreign Minister, last month. It is important that EU member states collectively and individually work to ensure the success of next year's Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

20. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on nuclear non-proliferation policy. [302614]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discuss nuclear non-proliferation with EU colleagues, most recently with Guido Westerwelle, the new German Foreign Minister, last month. It is important that EU member states collectively and individually work to ensure the success of next year's Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

23. **Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the prospects for progress towards disarmament and non-proliferation at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010. [302617]

Chris Bryant: There are clear indications that the mood is changing. The UN Security Council Summit and Resolution 1887 of 24 September 2009 showed the international community united in support of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons and for strengthening the non-proliferation framework. The Government will continue to work hard to re-energise international consensus to ensure a successful review conference next May.

Zimbabwe

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [302612]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Inclusive Government continue to make encouraging progress on economic reform. But we are disappointed by the slow pace of political reform, spasmodic violence and the continuation of human rights abuses. The recent Southern African Development Community summit in Mozambique confirmed regional commitment to pushing for further implementation of the Global Political Agreement. That is encouraging: but the proof will be in the delivery. We urge the Zimbabwean political parties to comply.

Pakistan: Terrorism

19. **Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on combating terrorism. [302613]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had a number of recent conversations with key Government of Pakistan counterparts on countering terrorism, notably with President Zardari in Kabul on 19 November 2009, and in a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Qureshi on 23 November 2009. We continue to discuss areas of mutual counter terrorism cooperation.

EU Membership: Referendum

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the merits of holding a referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. [302615]

Chris Bryant: The UK has a Parliament whose Members are elected to take decisions that affect the nation. There has to be a strong reason to have a referendum in the UK. There was no referendum on our entry into the then European Community in 1973: that decision was made by our democratically-elected Parliament.

Middle East Peace Process

22. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress in the middle east peace process; and if he will make a statement. [302616]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a challenging time. People feel frustrated that negotiations have not yet been re-launched. But we must not give up hope. Negotiations are the only way to achieve a two-state solution. The US remains committed to this goal, and it has our full support. We want the recent Israeli announcement to become a step on the way to the resumption of meaningful negotiations.

St. Helena

24. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will visit St. Helena to discuss its strategic importance to the UK. [302618]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to visit St. Helena.

I will meet St. Helena Councillor Gunnell on 7 and 9 December 2009 during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials remain in regular contact with St. Helena officials.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account was taken of the UN International Law of the Sea in respect of his Department's proposal to establish a Chagos Archipelago Marine Protected Area. [302474]

Chris Bryant: No decision has yet been taken on whether a Marine Protected Area will be established in the British Indian Ocean Territory. A decision will be taken following the public consultation which is currently underway. Any Marine Protected Area that may be established will be compliant with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what geographic limits have been set for the enforceable implementation of the proposed Chagos Archipelago Marine Protected Area. [302475]

Chris Bryant: No decision has yet been taken on whether a Marine Protected Area will be established in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). A decision will be taken following the public consultation which is at present underway. The geographic extent of protection will depend on which, if any, of the options for the fisheries is decided upon.

The maximum limit of any Marine Protected Area in the BIOT would be within the 200 nautical miles radius of the Environmental Preservation and Protection Zone of the BIOT. This zone was established by formal Proclamation No. 1 of 17 September 2003 and issued by the Commissioner for BIOT. A copy of the Proclamation, together with copies of the relevant charts and co-ordinates was deposited with the UN on 12 March 2004 in accordance with Article 75, paragraph 2 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, and can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/GBR.htm

British Petroleum

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates representatives of his Department have met executives of BP plc in each year since 2002. [301576]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and staff at all levels are in regular contact with representatives of BP in the UK and overseas.

In light of such regular and global contacts, the cost of providing the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Colombia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will restart his Department's programme of human rights training and assistance for senior military personnel in Colombia. [303022]

Chris Bryant: No.

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the UK will ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions. [303500]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 3 December my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on behalf of the UK. Before the UK can proceed with ratifying the Convention legislation is necessary to implement in UK law the Convention's prohibitions on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. On 19 November 2009 the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill was introduced in the House of Lords. This Bill would implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibitions. It is the Government's aim to ratify the Convention as soon as possible following the Act's entry into force.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many allegations his Department has received of ill-treatment of asylum seekers returned from the UK to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last four years; and how many inquiries his Department has carried out into such allegations in each such year. [302930]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not record the number of allegations of ill-treatment of individuals who return to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The FCO and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) do not proactively monitor the treatment of individuals who return to the DRC, unless there are exceptional circumstances that warrant doing so. Where specific allegations are made that a returning asylum seeker has experienced ill-treatment, then these allegations are investigated jointly by the UKBA and the FCO.

The best way to avoid ill-treatment is to make sure that we do not return those who are at real risk. The DRC authorities' treatment of returning failed asylum seekers to the DRC has been covered as a discrete issue in numerous immigration appeal decisions over the past five years, all of which have held that returned failed asylum seekers are not at risk of persecution on account of having claimed asylum in the UK.

On 3 December 2008, the Court of Appeal upheld an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal finding that there is no evidence that failed asylum seekers who are returned from the UK to DRC face a risk of persecution on return. We remain satisfied that failed asylum seekers are at no greater risk of being singled out for questioning by the authorities than any other DRC national returning to the country after time spent away.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303251]

Chris Bryant: In primary legislation sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1 May 2008 no offences have been abolished.

The Geneva Conventions and UN Personnel (Protocols) Act 2009 (i) amends the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 to provide protection under the criminal law in respect of grave breaches of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, involving the misuse of the new humanitarian emblem, the Red Crystal and (ii) amends the United Nations Personnel Act 1997 to provide that offences under that Act will also apply to attacks against UN workers involved in delivering humanitarian, political or development assistance, as required by the 2005 Optional Protocol to the Convention in the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [302026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has one Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), Professor David Clary FRS, appointed in August 2009. Professor Clary is supported by two civil servants, consisting of the Head of CSA Office and 50 per cent. of a shared Personal Assistant.

The joint FCO-Department for Business Innovation and Skills (DBIS) Science and Innovation Network (SIN) has approximately 90 full-time equivalent staff, including locally engaged staff, in 40 cities across 25 countries. Of these, 18 are UK civil servants.

SIN officers are scientifically literate staff based in FCO Posts, mainly in countries with the greatest science and innovation activities. They do not necessarily come from a science background. The UK management team for the SIN are based in the International Science and Innovation Unit at DBIS.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his *(a)* German and *(b)* French counterpart on the appointment of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy before the appointment was made. [303568]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had regular contact with his French and German opposite numbers on a range of Lisbon treaty implementation issues, including on the appointment of the High Representative.

Europe: Politics and Government

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on an *(a)* Hamas funding of minority parties in Eastern and Central Europe and *(b)* the potential for such parties to participate in coalition governments in EU member and partner states in the period to 2014. [303223]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have had no such discussions.

Hanslope Park

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to encourage staff working at Hanslope Park to *(a)* use public transport and *(b)* car share to minimise congestion on roads around the site during rush hour. [302648]

Chris Bryant: There is currently no viable option for staff wishing to commute to Hanslope Park by public transport. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operate a car share scheme at Hanslope Park and at last count in April 2008, 19.2 per cent. of staff commuted in a shared vehicle.

We are preparing a travel plan for Hanslope Park to further reduce the proportion of staff commuting to the site in single occupancy vehicles, including by re-examining the car share scheme.

We are improving facilities for cyclists at Hanslope Park and will introduce the 'Cycle to Work' purchase scheme for all UK FCO staff in the new year.

High Representative for Foreign Affairs: President of The European Council

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the process by which the proposed President of the European Council and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy were selected. [303011]

Chris Bryant: The elected leaders of the 27 member states of the EU came together in the European Council and decided unanimously to appoint Herman Van Rompuy as President of the European Council, and Baroness Catherine Ashton of Upholland as High Representative.

India: Religious Freedom

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken with the Government of India to assist in the protection of Christians in Orissa. [303118]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have not provided assistance to the Government of India for the protection of Christians in Orissa. The Department for International Development is providing £10 million for community development in Orissa through the Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme from 2004-10. The programme has helped to increase incomes, reduce malnutrition and improve water and sanitation for over 375,000 tribal men and women in four districts of Orissa, including Kandhamal.

Our high commission in New Delhi is also supporting a pilot project to improve access to justice in Kandhamal by improving awareness of citizens' rights and the capacity of lawyers to effectively pursue cases for victims of the communal violence in 2008.

Iran

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made any recent representations to the Iranian authorities on the continued use of the death penalty in that country. [303457]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has ongoing concerns about the number of executions in Iran and in particular its use against juvenile offenders. We are committed to speaking out publicly against the death penalty and frequently make representations on behalf of individuals at risk of execution.

We have done so on over twenty occasions in 2009. In October, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary condemned the execution of Behnood Shojaee for a crime he committed at the age of 17, and expressed grave concern for Safar Angoti, a juvenile facing imminent execution. Most recently, on 20 November 2009, the Swedish Government, as president of the EU, summoned the Iranian ambassador in Stockholm to condemn a spate of executions, including that of Kurdish activist Ehsan Fattahian. They expressed concern that a high number of Kurds faced a similar fate and called for clemency.

The presidency also expressed concern that at least five persons have been sentenced to death as a result of mass trials following the disputed election result. We are concerned that the accused had not been given the right to fair trial in accordance with standards laid down in international law.

Iran: Arms Control

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of Iranian compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions banning the export of arms from Iran; and if he will make a statement. [301975]

David Miliband: The UK takes allegations of violations of UN Security Council Resolutions very seriously. We are aware that the Iran Sanctions Committee is currently investigating recent incidents with the member states concerned. The Committee will provide a report on its activities in its annual report, which will be published in December 2009. The Government fully support the Committee pursuing this matter thoroughly and urgently.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the treatment of members of the Baha'i faith in that country. [302127]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Alongside our EU partners we have expressed concerns about the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran to the Iranian Government on several occasions. The EU Presidency summoned the Iranian Ambassador on 10 July 2009, and expressed deep concern about the overall situation of the Baha'is in Iran, especially the charges "espionage" and "corruption on earth" against the seven Baha'i leaders imprisoned for over a year without trial.

Most recently, on 20 November 2009, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on human rights in Iran for the seventh consecutive year. The Resolution condemns "attacks on Baha'is and their faith in State-sponsored media, increasing evidence of efforts by the State to identify, monitor and arbitrarily detain Baha'is, preventing members of the Baha'i faith from attending university and from sustaining themselves economically".

We will continue to urge Iran to respect the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a State Party.

Iran: Press Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on press freedom in that country. [303456]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has serious concerns about wide ranging restrictions on press and media in Iran. Since the elections in June repressive measures have been reinforced and pressure on journalists has increased. Restrictions on both domestic and foreign media remain at an even higher level than before the elections.

Alongside EU partners we have made it clear to the Iranian authorities that these restrictions are unacceptable. In June, EU Ministers condemned interference with the media, including the unjustified detention of journalists and the expulsion of foreign correspondents. In a meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister in Tehran on 26 August, the EU made clear that the ongoing media restrictions were unacceptable. In a declaration of 23 October, the EU, with strong UK support, deplored the ongoing violations of freedom of expression and freedom of the press in connection with the events following the elections.

We have also supported action at the UN. On 20 November, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in Iran for the seventh consecutive year. This resolution, co-sponsored by the EU

> "expresses deep concern at ongoing, systemic and serious restrictions of...freedom of opinion and expression, including those imposed on the media, Internet users and trade unions."

Iraq and Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on each project funded under the Strategic Programme Fund in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [300712]

Chris Bryant: The total spent to date on projects funded under the Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) is as follows:

Afghanistan: £78,497,550

Iraq: £106,610

£

	Afghanistan				Iraq
	Afghan Counter Narcotics	*Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation*	*Engaging with the Islamic World*	*Total*	*Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation*
2004-05	3,000,000	680,846	—	3,680,846	—
2005-06	6,000,000	968,331	—	6,968,331	—
2006-07	16,300,000	881,871	430,680	17,612,551	—
2007-08	16,300,000	—	635,822	16,935,822	55,016
2008-09	30,900,000	2,400,000	—	33,300,000	51,594

The Afghan Counter Narcotics programme has by far the lion's share of SPF expenditure in Afghanistan. Projects are directed towards the Afghan National Drugs Control Strategy which has eight pillars of activity: raising public awareness; promoting international and regional co-operation; promoting alternative livelihoods; reducing demand for drugs; law enforcement; establishing an effective criminal justice system; targeted eradication of opium; building effective Afghan Government institutions.

Projects under the Counter Terrorism and Engaging with the Islamic World programmes have focused on developing police and security capabilities, including the design and build of good governance structures in Afghanistan and Iraq. The work is closely aligned with our counter-terrorism objectives as set out in the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, Contest.

Israel: Borders

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on changes in the levels of trading and economic activity on the West Bank following the removal by Israel of checkpoints and security barriers. [301840]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There has not yet been a detailed assessment of the impact of the removal of some obstacles in the West Bank on levels of trading and economic activity, because the changes occurred too recently to have gathered comprehensive data. However, there is clear anecdotal evidence that the new permissive regime which allows Israeli Arabs to enter and shop in Palestinian areas (Area A in the West Bank) is boosting trade and service industries in these areas. There is also anecdotal evidence to suggest that Palestinians now have access to most places in the West Bank, although delays continue to be economically costly. There continue to be problems and delays for Palestinian businesses in the West Bank that wish to import or export goods; but there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the volume of exports from the West Bank may have increased as a result of the extended commercial opening hours of the Allenby crossing.

Italy

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Italian government on the pay levels of British academics working in Italian universities. [303383]

Chris Bryant: In its judgments of June 2001 and July 2006, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) found that the Italian Government was in breach of European law, because a 1995 law had discriminated against non-Italian nationals in determining the rights and benefits of foreign-language assistants in universities, who were redesignated as "linguistic experts" under the new law.

The Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy has contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about this case. My officials advised them to raise their concerns over Italy's alleged non-compliance with the ECJ ruling with the European Commission, the body legally responsible for enforcing compliance with European law. Officials will meet the Association on 8 December 2009 to discuss the outcome of the latter's consultations with the Commission.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of Hezbollah *(a)* troops, *(b)* rockets and *(c)* training camps in southern Lebanon. [301836]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest UN report on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 highlighted that Hezbollah continues to maintain a substantial military capacity distinct from that of the Lebanese State, in direct contravention of UNSCRs 1559 and 1701. It also makes clear that Hezbollah have not challenged allegations regarding its armament and increased military capability. All these reports are available on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep09.htm

This, combined with statements made by Hezbollah officials, suggest that Hizballah has increased its military capacity. However, we lack definitive figures.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the *(a)* EU, *(b)* US and *(c)* Russian Federation on the proposal for a Palestinian state made by the Palestinian Prime Minister. [301859]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are supportive of Prime Minister Fayyad's two year plan to progress Palestinian governance and institutional capacity building efforts.

Making progress on these issues is essential for the creation of a future Palestinian State. The UK therefore discusses them regularly with key partners: EU Foreign Ministers most recently pledged their support for the proposal at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 17 November 2009; my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular conversations on the Middle East Peace Process with US Special Envoy to the Middle East, Senator George Mitchell; and on 2 November 2009, the Foreign Secretary released a joint statement with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov where we urged:

> "the Palestinian National Authority to continue in its efforts to strengthen security and the rule of law, building on achievements reached so far".

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to monitor the forthcoming trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. [303200]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Moscow is watching developments in Mr. Khodorkovsky's case closely, and is participating in trial monitoring with EU partners and the US.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Russian Federation government about the imprisonment and trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. [303201]

Chris Bryant: We regularly raise our concerns regarding the case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, bilaterally and through the EU. The issue was last raised by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on 2 November 2009 during the Foreign Secretary's visit to Moscow.

Parliamentary Assemblies: Finance

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the running costs of the *(a)* North Atlantic Assembly, *(b)* Assembly of Western European Union and *(c)* Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe were in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the Government's contribution was to the costs of each such assembly in that year. [302838]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The 2009 budget for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Parliamentary Assembly, formerly known as the North Atlantic Assembly, was €3,722,650. The UK contribution was €518,584.

In 2009, the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly cost its 10 member states €6,959,336. Of this total, the UK contribution was €1,367,161.

The overall budget for 2009-10 for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly is €2,856,128. The UK contribution is €267,035.

Shell

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates representatives of his Department have met Royal Dutch Shell executives in each year since 2002. [301579]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and staff at all levels are in regular contact with representatives of Royal Dutch Shell in the UK and overseas.

In light of such regular and global contacts, the cost of providing the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

South Africa: Chess

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 862W, on the taking chess to the townships project, what recent representations he has received from Mr. Ted Nottingham on the taking chess to the townships initiative; and if he will meet representatives of the organisers of the project to discuss the project's future. [302565]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received a number of representations from Mr. Nottingham, including via his MP, about his taking chess to the townships, initiative. Most recently, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa and the UN, Baroness Kinnock, wrote on 19 November 2009 to reiterate that while the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wished Mr. Nottingham well with his initiative, it could not provide any support for it.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of rearmament of rebel groups in the Darfur region; and if he will make a statement. [302981]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Panel of Experts on Sudan established under UN Security Council Resolution 1591 has detailed multiple cases of the transfer of military equipment into Darfur in violation of the UN embargo. We are also aware of recent press reports of rearmament by rebel groups.

The UK has consistently reiterated to all parties the need to respect the UN arms embargo on Darfur and the EU embargo covering all of Sudan, including in contacts with representatives of the armed movements, the Government of Sudan and neighbouring countries.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Sudanese government and *(b)* the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur on the Sudanese Government's policies towards UN peacekeeping patrols in the Darfur region in 2009. [302982]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly press the Government of Sudan, the UN African Union hybrid mission to Darfur (UNAMID) and other parties in Darfur to act to improve security there, including by respecting the Status of Forces Agreement with the UN. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development (Mr. Thomas) raised our concerns over security during his visit to Sudan on 14-15 October 2009. We underlined the issues again in the UN Security Council discussions of Darfur on 30 November 2009, and in talks that day in Geneva with the UN, the Government of Sudan and other partners on the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Uganda: Homosexuality

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Ugandan Government on their proposed legislation to *(a)* increase penalties for homosexuality and *(b)* introduce the death sentence for HIV positive homosexuals. [300314]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 November 2009]:* The legislation is a Private Member's Bill, which was introduced on 14 October 2009 and is currently at committee stage in Uganda's Parliament. It has not so far been adopted formally by the Ugandan Government.

We have grave concerns about the Bill, which we have made clear in representations to Ugandan Ministers including by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to President Museveni and my noble Friend, the Minister for Africa and the UN, Baroness Kinnock to Foreign Minister Kutesa at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Our concerns include the negative impact the Bill would have on the rights of homosexual and heterosexual Ugandans through the criminalisation of any action that could be construed as support for homosexuality, the introduction of the death penalty for some acts criminalised by the Bill, and the potential impact of the Bill on the fight against HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

The UK is also in close touch with and is supporting Ugandan civil society organisations campaigning against the Bill.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which country the UK has recognised as the administering power de facto in that part of the territory of Western Sahara that is not occupied by Morocco. [301866]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK does not regard any country as administering de facto that part of the territory of Western Sahara not under Moroccan control.

While Morocco has administered most of the territory of Western Sahara since 1976, the UK regards the status of the whole of Western Sahara as undetermined pending UN led efforts to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution to the conflict, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. The UK Government fully support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy Christopher Ross in this regard.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies of individuals in each age group there have been in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 to date. [302914]

Ian Lucas: The available information for bankruptcies in Mid-Bedfordshire and the East of England, in 2008 by age group, can be seen in Table 1 as follows. Information for 2009 is not currently available, as regional insolvency statistics are only compiled on an annual basis.

Table 1. Bankruptcies in 2008

	Age group[1]						
Region[2]	*Under 25*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*	*Unknown*
Mid-Bedfordshire	1	18	25	22	7	3	2
East of England	331	1867	2331	1468	805	278	266

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department incurred on entertainment at 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 in 2008-09. [301394]

Mr. McFadden: The Department spent £1,078,530 on entertainment in 2008-09. Information on how much of that sum was spent at 1 Victoria Street could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for a senior civil servant in his Department in each of the last five years. [300825]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was formed in June 2009 by the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). No performance-related payments have yet been awarded to the Senior Civil Service in BIS.

BERR and DIUS were themselves created in June 2007 in a Machinery of Government change.

Non-consolidated non-pensionable performance awards are paid to staff in the senior civil service (SCS) to reward delivery of business objectives and personal contributions to wider organisational goals. Performance awards are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on judgments of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The performance-related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery.

The size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot to be divided between members of the SCS each year is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The information available for BERR and DIUS senior civil servants who were in the SCS pay system is shown in the following table.[1]

£

	Department	*Average SCS award*	*Largest SCS award*
2008-09	BERR	8,580	14,000
2008-09	DIUS	8,473	20,000
2007-08	BERR	7,874	17,000
2007-08	DIUS	9,141	20,000

In accordance with Cabinet Office guidance 25 per cent. of the SCS in both BERR and DIUS received no bonus.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the estimated cost to the public sector is of the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [303196]

Mr. McFadden: The impact assessment accompanying the consultation on draft regulations published by the Department on 15 October

www.bis.gov.uk/consulations

set out the estimated costs and benefits of the directive. Under a 12-week qualifying period for equal treatment, as agreed under the TUC/CBI agreement of 20 May 2008, the cost to public sector hirers was estimated to be between £227 and £337 million a year.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the Secretary of State last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302732]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State is supplied with a Government car with which to undertake his official duties.

Land Mines: Exports

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many anti-personnel mines were exported from the UK in each of the last 10 years. [302347]

Ian Lucas: BIS's Export Control Organisation only holds information on export licences, not on actual exports. One licence was issued in 2003 for the export to USA of 20 anti-personnel mines. The stated end-use of the mines was for the development of techniques for the detection of anti-personnel mines. Such exports are permitted under both the Landmines Act 1998 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Lord Rothschild

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the Secretary of State notified the Permanent Secretary of hospitality received from Lord Rothschild in August 2009; and what advice the Secretary of State received from the Permanent Secretary on the matter. [303588]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State notified the Permanent Secretary before the summer break of his plans to accept accommodation from Lord Rothschild and declared the hospitality in the Register of Lords' Interests afterwards.

Research: Standards

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of *(a)* economic and *(b)* social impact is used for the purposes of assessment under the Research Excellence Framework. [301918]

Mr. Lammy: HEFCE are currently consulting on proposals for the Research Excellence Framework on behalf of the four UK funding bodies. Their proposals are for three components: output quality, impact, and environment. Their consultation proposes that:

"there should be a wide definition of impacts, including economic, social, public policy, cultural and quality of life."

The consultation closes on 16 December. The consultation paper is available on the HEFCE website:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/

HEFCE are also running pilot exercises to test out the impact assessment approach.

Saif al-Islam Gaddafi

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions the Secretary of State had with the Permanent Secretary of his Department on the Ministerial Code prior to meeting Saif al-Islam Gaddafi; and what advice the Secretary of State received from the Permanent Secretary on that matter. [303188]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2077W.

Strategic Investment Fund

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the Strategic Investment Fund has been *(a)* disbursed and *(b)* allocated to projects in each (i) constituency, (ii) local authority area and (iii) Government Office region since the inception of that Fund. [301874]

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[1] These figures exclude senior civil servants who are employed on fixed-term contracts with individual remuneration arrangements.

Mr. McFadden: Over £720 million has already been allocated from the Strategic Investment Fund for specific projects and investments. We expect that in the region of £200 million will have been spent by the end of this current financial year.

The SIF is a UK-wide fund, and many of the projects supported by the SIF are themselves UK-wide in geographical scope. This includes for example achieving universal access to broadband, as part of the Digital Britain programme, and the UK Innovation Investment Fund. It is not possible at present to provide information on the geographical distribution of spend under these projects.

A number of other projects supported under the SIF can be identified to specific geographical locations, though the benefits of the projects will often be felt over a much wider area. Projects of this kind include the following, which will receive either full or part funding from the SIF:

Project	*Geographical location*	*Total BIS support (£ million)*
Industrial Biotech Demonstrator	Wilton, Teesside	12.0
Airbus A350XWB Launch Investment	Broughton, Clwyd and Filton, SW England	340.0
Printable Electronics Centre	Sedgefield, Durham	12.0
Rolls Royce low carbon aeroengine technology	Derby, East Midlands	45.0
Centre of Excellence for Silicon Design	Bristol, SW England	0.5
National Composites Centre	Bristol, SW England	12.0
Stevenage Bioscience Park	Stevenage, Herts	12.0
Wave Hub—test-bed for wave energy devices	Hayle, Cornwall	9.5
South West Marine Energy Development	SW England	10.0
Wave and Tidal Energy Test Centre	Blyth, Northumberland	10.0

Further details on these projects and other investments being funded from the SIF are contained in the Interim Report the Department published in October, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Telephone Services

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward measures to reduce the costs of operating national telephone helplines to *(a)* Government agencies and *(b)* charities. [303427]

Mr. Timms: The cross-Government Service Transformation programme, led by Cabinet Office, is working to improve helpline services delivered to citizens and business while reducing costs. This covers helplines provided by central Government, agencies and charities. Where it makes sense to bring helplines together to make it easier for people to access the support they need, there will be opportunities to reduce operating costs. Ensuring that helplines align with advice provided on the web helps to manage demand, which can in turn reduce costs.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 70-1W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, how much the Homes and Communities Agency has received in proceeds from resales under the *(a)* First Time Buyer's Initiative, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* New Build HomeBuy and *(d)* Open Market HomeBuy Scheme in each of the last three years; and what the average amount received by the Agency was in respect of such a transaction. [302955]

John Healey: For *(a)*, the following table shows repayments received by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in 2008-09:

FTBI repayments received by the HCA 2008-09

	£
2008-09	107,592

For *(b)*, HomeBuy Direct became operational in February 2009. There were no resales in the last three years.

For *(c)* and *(d)*, grant invested in Open Market HomeBuy and New Build HomeBuy properties, through Registered Social Landlords (who own the properties) is credited to the Recycled Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) for provision of new social lets or other low cost homes when the properties are sold whole or through shared ownership terms.

The total proceeds received by the HCA from sales of grant funded properties in the last three years are as follows:

	Recovered grant (£)
2006-07	12,215,887
2007-08	9,514,917
2008-09	18,583,258

Source:
HCA.

Audit Commission: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Audit Commission has made to Connect Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302305]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 1 December 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has contracted work from Connect Public Affairs over the last 12 months totalling £55,616.76 (details attached).

The total cost includes work carried out under contract and ad hoc commissioned work. There is not one overall contract, but an example of the individual contract used is attached and has been placed in the Library.

A copy of this letter will be placed in *Hansard*.

	Purpose	*Amount (£)*
2 January 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee in December 2008	1,601.25
12 January 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee in November 2008	1,601.25
11 February 2009	Parliamentary monitoring	1,601.25
11 February 2009	CPA Conservative Shadow Cabinet	9,607.50
17 February 2009	Events planner for January 2009	1,067.50
11 March 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee during February 2009	1,601.25
20 March 2009	Management of events planner	533.75
27 March 2009	One off project fee to identify key prospective parliamentary candidates	2,668.75
27 March 2009	One off project fee to develop a public affairs strategy	6,405.00
27 March 2009	Project fee to assist with party conference planning	907.38
24 April 2009	Office expenses including phone for mgt of events planner	533.75
24 April 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee	1,601.25
3 June 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee	2,135.00
10 June 2009	One off project fee	2,668.75
12 June 2009	Contract fee as agreed	1,067.50
13 July 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee June 2009	2,135.00
13 July 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee May 2009	2,135.00
27 July 2009	Contract fee, analysis and overview of local election results	2,135.00
10 August 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee	2,135.00
14 September 2009	Contract fee	2,135.00
14 September 2009	Contract fee	1,601.25
14 September 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee	2,135.00
9 November 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee October 2009	2,668.75
9 November 2009	Parliamentary monitoring fee	2,935.63
Total		55,616.76

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts with his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [303082]

Barbara Follett: The Department, and its predecessors, have no record of contracts with Capita plc being cancelled before completion. Capita Group plc has not been liable to any penalties from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303483]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State has not been to Scotland or Northern Ireland since his appointment in June. He has been to Wales, participating in a Regional Cabinet in Cardiff on 23 July 2009.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303247]

Barbara Follett: The Department has sponsored four Acts that have received Royal Assent since 1 May 2008.

Housing and Regeneration Act 2008;

Planning Act 2008;

Business Rate Supplements Act 2009; and

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

(a) 10 criminal offences were abolished by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008; and

(b) 20 criminal offences were created—13 by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and seven by the Planning Act 2008.

Departmental Press Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [301594]

Barbara Follett: 21 full-time equivalent press officers are employed by and work for Communities and Local Government.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302977]

Barbara Follett: CLG does not record office facilities costs broken down by individual business area or unit and therefore the information requested is not available.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302734]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State has not travelled by bus or taxi in the course of his official duties.

Derelict Land

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of brownfield land there are in cities on which building development may not take place. [302083]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information is not held centrally on the area of brownfield land in cities on which building development may not take place. Information on the total amount of previously developed land that may be available for development by local authority is available from the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land which is published by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Floods: Cumbria

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be able to claim for expenditure under the 0.2 per cent. qualifying expenditure arrangements under the Bellwin scheme in respect of expenditure necessitated by the recent floods in Cumbria. [302318]

Barbara Follett: All the local authorities in Cumbria may apply for Bellwin funding in respect of the recent floods. For this scheme, we have exceptionally decided that authorities may claim 100 per cent. grant above the threshold—which is set at 0.2 per cent. of an authority's calculated annual revenue budget.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether fire and rescue authorities are eligible for funding under the Bellwin scheme following the recent floods in Cumbria. [302320]

Barbara Follett: Fire and rescue authorities are eligible for funding under the Bellwin scheme. In this particular instance, Cumbria county council has responsibility for fire and rescue services and has already registered its intention to submit a Bellwin claim.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what categories of local authority expenditure are not eligible for emergency financial assistance under the Bellwin scheme. [303175]

Barbara Follett: Annex B of the Bellwin guidance on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/bellwinscheme/

gives examples of expenditure that would not normally qualify for funding under the Bellwin scheme. These include:

costs which are normally insurable, whether by the authority or any other party (e.g. under household insurance policies);

loss of income (e.g. from facilities closed as a result of the emergency), as this falls outside the scope of section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

the normal wages and salaries of the authority's regular employees, whether diverted from their normal work or otherwise, and the standing costs of the authority's plant and equipment;

longer term works of repair and restoration, such as tree planting and repair or refurbishment of damaged but not dangerous structures;

any element of betterment, e.g. repairs to buildings to a significantly higher standard than their condition on the day before the incident.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the functions are of the Homes and Communities Agency's National Consultancy Unit; and if he will make a statement. [302804]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to Section D of the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1295W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 73W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: manpower, from which organisation each member of staff was seconded. [302950]

John Healey: Of the 50 secondees to Homes and Communities Agency, the majority are from Communities and Local Government; with two from Savills and one each from BERR, DCMS, English Heritage, Lambeth council, The Prince's Trust, King Sturge, BBP Regeneration, London and Quadrant and Knight Frank.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish the Housing, Planning and Delivery Grant settlement for local authorities for 2009-10. [302085]

Mr. Ian Austin: We will make an announcement shortly.

Housing: Building Regulations

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 866W, on housing: building regulations, whether his Department has revisited the impact assessment of funding for overground oil tanks. [302387]

Mr. Ian Austin: The consultation on proposals to revise part J (combustion appliances and fuel storage systems) of the building regulations came to an end on 26 November. The next steps are to analyse and publish a summary of responses, agree final proposals and revise the part J Approved Document (statutory guidance). As part of this process, we will revisit the impact assessment.

Housing: Empty Property

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty *(a)* private and *(b)* public homes there were in each region of the

UK in each of the last two years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [303204]

Mr. Ian Austin: The term public homes has been interpreted as those owned by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs). Information is available only for regions in England.

A table showing estimates of the number of empty dwellings in the private and public sector in each region in England in the last two years has been placed in the House Library.

Total vacant dwellings reported by local authorities through council taxbase returns include long-term (six months and more) and short-term vacancies. Figures for RSLs are for self-contained general needs units only.

Housing: Energy

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to encourage the retrofitting of the existing housing stock with energy efficiency technologies through the building regulations. [302090]

Mr. Ian Austin: Energy efficiency standards are set out in Part L of the building regulations, 'Conservation of fuel and power'. Part L requirements apply only when building work is carried out to existing dwellings. The standards typically cover the construction of extensions, the conversion of non-domestic buildings to dwellings, the installation of new and replacement heating, ventilation and lighting systems, window replacement, and other alterations. We have recently consulted on proposals to raise Part L standards in 2010 and plan to publish a summary of responses at the end of the year.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what applications he has received for funding under his Department's Kickstart programme for projects in Hendon; what funding has been made available; and if he will make a statement. [302096]

John Healey: Details of all round one approved Kickstart schemes, are posted on the Homes and Communities Agency's website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/kickstart housing

This includes a project in Stonegrove.

Local Government Finance: Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from *(a)* revenue support, *(b)* capital grant and *(c)* supported borrowing was provided by central Government to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in (A) 2007-08 and (B) 2008-09. [302136]

Barbara Follett: Please find as follows a table providing the amount of formula grant, which is made up of revenue support grant and redistributed business rates for non-police authorities, for each of the authorities requested. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant. This means that authorities are free to spend the money on any service provided that they meet their statutory duties.

£ million

Local authority	*Year*	*Prior years adjusted formula grant*	*Current year's formula grant*	*Change*	*Percentage change*
Kent county council	2007-08	222.673	228.685	6.012	2.7
	2008-09	250.743	259.366	8.624	3.4
Thanet district council	2007-08	12.401	12.765	0.364	2.9
	2008-09	12.834	13.021	0.187	1.5
Dover district council	2007-08	9.695	9.957	0.262	2.7
	2008-09	10.013	10.113	0.100	1.0

Information on the provision of capital grants is not held centrally.

Supported borrowing or supported capital expenditure (revenue) is supported through formula grant. Since formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, and due to the calculations of formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for the support of capital expenditure.

Local Government Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to extend Total Place pilots to include *(a)* the Stroud district and *(b)* other rural areas. [303206]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 13 Total Place pilot authorities were chosen to ensure a diverse mix of economic, geographical and demographic profiles. This includes rural areas.

There are also over 70 parallel places, urban and rural, undertaking Total Place type activity. These numbers continue to rise as more and more local authorities begin to consider the real potential of a whole area approach, looking at all the services in their area and consider how they can bring about much-needed change in the way these services can be delivered more effectively and efficiently.

Operational Efficiency Programme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what efficiency savings projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300928]

Barbara Follett: The Department is approaching the efficiency agenda as a group endeavour in close collaboration with our arm's-length bodies and Government offices. We have made good progress on delivering on the Operational Efficiency Programme and have a range of initiatives in place to deliver efficiencies. These include implementing shared services and rationalising back office systems; collaborative procurement, where we are reviewing and renewing supplier arrangements across a range of common goods and services; consolidation of office accommodation and implementing open plan and flexible desk sharing and rationalisation of our group estate. For our arm's-length bodies, delivering efficiencies is about transforming service delivery models and improving front-line services to drive down costs. We continue to work closely with our ALBs as they implement these initiatives.

Public Works Loans Board: Croydon

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the circumstances necessitating Croydon council's loan of £145.6 million from the Public Works Loans Board; and if he will make a statement. [303436]

Barbara Follett: It is not appropriate for the Department to make such an assessment or a statement on this matter. Decisions on self-financed borrowing are a matter for local authorities. The prudential borrowing system imposes a duty for local authorities to determine and keep under review the amount they can afford to borrow.

Shared Ownership Schemes: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership purchases have been made by people on social housing waiting lists in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* Peterborough city council area and *(c)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 2001; and what proportion of all such sales in each of those areas this represented in each such year. [301995]

John Healey: Information on shared ownership purchases is not available on a constituency basis.

The available information for shared ownership sales in Peterborough unitary authority and Cambridgeshire is shown in the following tables. The numbers exclude sales by registered social landlords with less than 250 units/bedspaces. Information on whether sales were to people on a housing waiting list is missing in some cases, and was only collected up to 2006-07. The percentage of shared ownership sales to people on waiting lists was not calculated due to missing information.

From April 2006, applicants for grant-funded shared ownership properties apply direct to homebuy agents (appointed housing associations) who carry out eligibility and affordability checks and handle the application process.

Table 1: Shared ownership completions in Peterborough

		Of which:		
	Shared ownership sales	*Sales to people on housing waiting lists*	*Sales to people not on housing waiting lists*	*Sales for which waiting list information is not available*
2001-02	0	0	0	0
2002-03	0	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	0	0
2004-05	9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005-06	23	17	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	49	9	20	20
2007-08	58	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	53	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 2: Shared ownership completions in Cambridgeshire

		Of which:		
	Shared ownership sales	*Sales to people on housing waiting lists*	*Sales to people not on housing waiting lists*	*Sales for which waiting list information is not available*
2001-02	16	10	[1]—	[1]—
2002-03	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2003-04	90	42	41	7
2004-05	63	30	20	13
2005-06	91	52	25	14
2006-07	212	71	88	53
2007-08	209	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	227	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] No reliable estimate due to less than five respondents.

Source:

CORE (continuous recording) returns to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from registered social landlords (RSLs).

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process will apply to his Department reaching agreement with the Sustainable Communities Act 2007's selector body once bids have been submitted to his Department by the Selector. [302207]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, before deciding which of the proposals on the short-list should be implemented, the Government are required to consult with the Selector and try to reach agreement. In order to effectively implement the Act, officials have met with representatives from the Selector on a number of occasions. These meetings will continue once the short-list has been received. Ministers will also engage with members of the Selector Panel in order to try to reach agreement before final decisions are made.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the second round of bids under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [302220]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to the effective implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. The first round has generated 301 proposals that are currently being considered by the Local Government Association as Selector, before being submitted to the Secretary of State. We intend to review the first round of proposals once decisions have been taken in order to ensure that implementation of the second round of proposals is as effective as possible. This will allow the second round to benefit from feedback from communities, local authorities, the Selector and the

Third Sector on how the process might be improved. This will ensure that we can be clear from the outset about the way that future proposals will be handled.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for *(a)* considering and *(b)* approving the first round of bids under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [302285]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are currently co-operating with the Local Government Association, appointed as Selector, as it draws up a short-list of the proposals from local authorities, under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, which it believes would improve the sustainability of their local area. I understand the Selector Panel is due to meet on 22 December 2009 and is expected to submit the short-list to the Secretary of State thereafter. The Secretary of State will then consult the Selector and try to reach agreement on which proposals should be implemented.

The timing of these decisions will depend on the number and complexity of the proposals on the short-list.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association in its role as Selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [303205]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are currently co-operating with the Local Government Association (LGA), in its role as Selector, as the LGA draws up a short-list of the proposals from local authorities, under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, which it believes would improve the sustainability of their local area. As part of the co-operation process, officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government have met with the Local Government Association on a number of occasions.

The Government have also shared with the LGA factual information on the proposals, including material on whether proposals are likely to be already within the existing powers of local authorities; whether proposals are likely to require additional public expenditure; information on the cost-benefit and broad impact of proposals; and details of existing policy positions for which the Government are publicly accountable.

These meetings will continue once the short-list has been received. Ministers will also engage with members of the Selector Panel in order to try to reach agreement before final decisions are made.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Tenant Services Authority has made to APCO since its establishment; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302215]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1345W.

HEALTH

Blood: Donors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the criteria relating to donation of *(a)* blood and *(b)* bone marrow for the purposes of increasing the number of people eligible to donate. [302036]

Ann Keen: Selection criteria for blood and bone marrow donors are covered by a European Union directive, transposed into United Kingdom law as the Blood and Safety Quality Regulations (2005). Within this framework the Joint Professional Advisory Committee of the UK Blood Transfusion services provides detailed advice on donor and donation acceptability for the protection of both the donor and the recipient patients.

In addition, the independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissue and Organs advises the Government on donor selection. These recommendations are based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence and kept under review.

There has not been a shortage of blood in the UK for many years, and the British Bone Marrow Register strategy for maintaining the registry at 300,000 donors is readily attainable without any change to current donor selection guidelines.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for a pilot project for the registration of stem cell donors *(a)* up to the age of 60 years and *(b)* who are blood donors at blood centres. [302037]

Ann Keen: The British Bone Marrow Registry recruits donors aged between 18 and 49. All bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell donors are recruited from blood donors at blood centres.

The Department does not intend to bring forward any proposals to change current practice.

Botulinum Toxin

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of botox produced in the UK which has been used for *(a)* cosmetic and *(b)* medical procedures. [302661]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions botox has been used in medical procedures performed by the NHS in each of the last three years. [302666]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The available information is shown in the following table:

Count of Finished Consultant Episode (FCEs) where there was a main or secondary procedure of Torsion dystonias and other involuntary movements drugs Band 1 Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	FCEs (Thousand)
2008-09	26.3

Count of Finished Consultant Episode (FCEs) where there was a main or secondary procedure of Torsion dystonias and other involuntary movements drugs Band 1 Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	FCEs (Thousand)
2007-08	19.9
2006-07	12.8

Notes:

1. A FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. The Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure represent the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. It should be noted that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Cancer: Health Services

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer referral patients have been seen within the two-week waiting time for *(a)* urgent and *(b)* routine referrals in each of the last three years. [301709]

Ann Keen: All patients with suspected breast cancer should be urgently referred by their general practitioner in line with the referral guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. These patients should not be subject to a routine referral. The following table details the numbers of patients covered by this standard and the reported performance for the period April 2006 to December 2008.

Period	*Total seen (where referral was received within 24 hours)*	*Number of patients seen within 14 Days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter 1 2006-07	34,725	34,710	100.0
Quarter 2 2006-07	33,090	33,078	100.0
Quarter 3 2006-07	36,682	36,669	100.0
Quarter 4 2006-07	34,485	34,471	100.0
Quarter 1 2007-08	33,694	33,680	100.0
Quarter 2 2007-08	33,213	33,204	100.0
Quarter 3 2007-08	38,197	38,169	99.9
Quarter 4 2007-08	37,263	37,200	99.8
Quarter 1 2008-09	41,424	41,349	99.8
Quarter 2 2008-09	38,651	38,492	99.6
Quarter 3 2008-09	40,417	40,372	99.9

From 1 January 2009 onwards the definitions and methodology used to calculate these statistics are no longer directly comparable to those used previously. This change means that the national health service no longer adjusts these data to separate referrals after 24 hours or account for patient choice, where individuals elect to delay their appointment. Statistics for the period January 2009 to June 2009 are included in the following table.

Period	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter 4 2008-09	41,033	39,214	95.6
Quarter 1 2009-10	44,749	42,648	95.3

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for its forthcoming clinical strategy for chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. [301998]

Ann Keen: The national health service, Department of Health and key stakeholders have been working together over the last three years to develop a comprehensive strategy for improving services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in England, and intend to publish it shortly for public consultation.

The strategy will demonstrate how we have reviewed the case for change and identified good practice based on published evidence, whenever available, in slowing the progression of this long-term condition. The strategy will describe how the Department and NHS can work together to ensure that the public understand the risks of having poor lung health, and that health care practitioners understand how to secure improvements to the diagnosis and care of people with COPD. We also want to support people with COPD and their carers by offering practical advice and education on managing their disease.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many external consultants work for his Department. [303237]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect information on the numbers of management consultants employed. When commissioning management consultancy services, it is the Department's preference to contract for whole pieces of work rather than on a day rate basis. Consequently, it is left to the respective consultancy organisations to manage the number and level of individual consultants employed at any one time in order to deliver the required outcomes to the best value.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301152]

Phil Hope: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish on-line, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302971]

Phil Hope: It is not possible to calculate the cost of the provision of office facilities to special advisers and press officers for the period in question.

Departmental Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301208]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State last travelled by train on 23 November 2009 in the course of his ministerial duties.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301924]

Phil Hope: Information about the number of scientific advisers and civil servants in scientific posts is not held centrally.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302700]

Phil Hope: The Department holds information on its taxi contract expenditure from 2004-05. We are unable to separate out mileage information between Ministers and officials, as this distinction is not collected. The total expenditure against each contract along with the associated mileage, where kept, is as follows:

	Addison Lee (£)	*GDCA Green Cars (£)*	*Mileage*
2004-05	423,212	—	[1]—
2005-06	412,695	—	140,233
2006-07	306,310	—	113,232
2007-08	336,934	—	121,327
2008-09	291,985	22,935	120,388
2009-10 (until October 2009)	184,539	27,003	79,794

[1] Not kept.

Both contracts were cancelled recently in order to reduce the Department's carbon footprint and save money.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to his Department of the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive is. [303197]

Phil Hope: No estimate has yet been made by the Department of the cost of implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. It is expected that an estimate of these costs will be completed within the next six months.

East of England Strategic Health Authority: Consultants

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* management and *(b)* other consultants by (i) Suffolk Primary Care Trust and (ii) the East of England Strategic Health Authority in each of the last five years. [302435]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. Strategic health authorities and primary care trusts are responsible for using their resources to plan, commission and develop services to meet the health needs of their local community. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue locally.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Research

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research projects funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council in the last 10 years on which he relies to fulfil his responsibility to ensure that genetically modified food is safe to eat have been designed specifically to show whether there are risks of adverse health effects for people from the consumption of genetically modified food. [303374]

Ann Keen: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has commissioned work under three research programmes relevant to the safety of genetically modified (GM) foods. Prior to April 2000 food safety research was the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). The research funded by the FSA and MAFF has included a series of projects aimed at either better understanding the consequences of genetic modification, or exploring new/improved methods for use in the safety assessment of GM organisms such as metabolomics and genomics. Details of the individual projects commissioned by MAFF and the FSA are available on the research pages of the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/research/researchinfo/foodcomponentsresearch/novelfoodsresearch/

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has not funded any research during the last 10 years specifically to show whether there are risks of adverse health effects for people from the consumption of GM food, but it has funded one project to analyse gene transfer from food plants to human intestinal microflora and intestinal epithelium, which is relevant to the safety assessment of foods obtained from GM crops.

Health Professions: Pay

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure pay parity between pharmacy contractors and appliance contractors. [303199]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Over the last few years, the Department has been carrying out a review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of appliances—and related services—in primary care. Throughout the review the Department's key aims were to:

maintain and, where applicable, improve patient care;

ensure equitable payment to dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors for the provision of equivalent services; and

achieve transparency between what is paid for services and what is reimbursed for items.

The new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care were announced by my hon. Friend the Minister of State (Phil Hope) in a written ministerial statement on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 67WS and an overview of the new arrangements was placed in the Library. We are looking to implement the changes next year.

Influenza

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 57-58WS, on the Departmental Expenditure Account (2008-09), which pandemic flu items required the transfer of funds from his Department's capital expenditure limit to its revenue expenditure limit. [302935]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The transfer relates to the utilisation of antiviral drugs, vaccines and other stocks in 2009-10. It does not change the overall level of funding available to the Department.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303341]

Phil Hope: The Department has no record on its central finance database of any contracts held with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

Lung Cancer

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much is planned to be spent on the National Lung Cancer Audit in each of the next three financial years; [301216]

(2) whether he plans to change methods of collection of National Lung Cancer Audit data. [301217]

Ann Keen: The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership manages the contract for the National Lung Cancer Audit which is currently out to tender, and it is for the organisations tendering for the audit to submit their own proposals. The tender process is designed to ensure that the audit continues to be effective, offers value for money and has the opportunity to develop new indicators of quality care.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department will publish the report on the summary of responses to the consultation on the additional uses of patient data; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the report. [302187]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The report was published on 30 November 2009. Deferment of publication from the originally-planned date has been due to the need for extended and detailed analysis of both quantifiable data and free text responses to ensure the report fairly reflects all respondents' views, and to avoid bias which could have arisen because of disproportionate response rates from different constituencies. The analysis was then further reviewed for consistency.

Medical Research: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding has been allocated to medical research in each year since 1996-97. [301736]

Gillian Merron: Government funding for medical research is provided principally through the Department's national health service research and development budget and the Medical Research Council. The amounts allocated in each year since 1996-97 are shown in the following table.

Government health research funding

£ million

	Medical Research Council	*NHS Research and Development*
1996-97	n/a	432
1997-98	289	426
1998-99	290	420
1999-2000	305	434
2000-01	319	448
2001-02	350	475
2002-03	372	506
2003-04	430	533
2004-05	458	601
2005-06	481	617
2006-07	504	659
2007-08	552	730

Government health research funding

		£ million
	Medical Research Council	*NHS Research and Development*
2008-09	617	792
2009-10	699	862

[1] n/a = Not available

Mentally Ill: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of prescribing anti-psychotic drugs in each year since 1997; [302897]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been prescribed anti-psychotic drugs in each year since 1997. [302913]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of patients prescribed a medicine and the condition for which that medicine is prescribed is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of prescription items for anti-psychotic drugs within sections 4.2.1 Antipsychotic drugs and 4.2.2 Antipsychotic depot injections of the British National Formulary, written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community, in England with the net ingredient cost (NIC).

		Thousand
	Items dispensed	*NIC*
1997	4,423.0	41,005.2
1998	4,714.2	58,745.7
1999	4,925.0	79,592.7
2000	5,159.2	98,419.9
2001	4,922.9	130,633.5
2002	5,167.0	161,670.2
2003	5,513.2	191,874.4
2004	5,687.8	211,945.5
2005	5,872.9	216,087.8
2006	6,196.1	240,556.2
2007	6,619.5	264,814.3
2008	6,989.4	276,982.1

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

National Centre for Stereotactic Radiosurgery: Standards

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the performance of the National Centre of Stereotactic Radiosurgery in meeting the NHS 18-week pathway target; and if he will make a statement. [303044]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not made a specific assessment regarding the National Centre of Stereotactic Radiosurgery and data on the performance of the National Centre of Stereotactic Radiosurgery are not held centrally.

Referral to treatment (RTT) data, which show how trusts are performing against the 18-week operational standard, are collected at treatment function level and at provider level. Patients who are treated at the National Centre of Stereotactic Radiosurgery are recorded under the RTT data for Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The latest RTT data (September 2009) show that 61.7 per cent. of admitted patients, and 72.8 per cent, of non-admitted patients received neurosurgery treatment at Sheffield teaching hospitals within 18 weeks of referral by their general practitioner.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency: Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects the Purchasing and Supply Agency to pay in contract payments to DHL over the contract period. [302524]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department signed a 10-year Master Services Agreement with DHL on 4 September 2006 for the provision of procurement and supply chain services, trading under the name of NHS Supply Chain (NHS SC).

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) paid £17.1 million between 2006-09 to cover the costs and liabilities of employees who transferred from NHS PASA to NHS SC under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations.

No further contractual payments are anticipated.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* strengthen whistleblowing procedures for hospital staff and *(b)* encourage constructive criticism of working practices from hospital staff. [301826]

Ann Keen: We expect national health service trusts to have policies in place that encourage feedback from staff and pre-empt the need to whistleblow. For those rare occasions where whistleblowing is the appropriate course of action, we have provided unprecedented protection for individuals and we emphasise in the NHS constitution the right not to be unfairly dismissed for whistleblowing or reporting wrongdoing. Listening to and acting upon concerns of staff are vital ways to drive up standards.

Following the recommendations of the recent House of Commons Select Committee report on patient safety, the Department will be updating and re-issuing guidance to the NHS, working in conjunction with NHS Employers, Public Concern at Work and trade unions.

The pack is intended to help employers who are in the process of creating or updating their whistleblowing procedures.

Nurses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of physical assaults on nurses and other hospital staff. [301818]

Ann Keen: Each national health service body has a duty to address the risks to staff and ensure their safety. The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The Department and the NHS SMS will also work with the Social Partnership Forum to promote the security of NHS staff and reduce assaults.

A new offence of causing nuisance or disturbance on hospital premises and a power to remove someone suspected of committing this offence were supported by the Department in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. The purpose of these measures is to remove those whose actions may escalate into violence and whose behaviour diverts staff from delivering care. Consultation on guidance on the use of the powers took place between May and August and the powers will be commenced on 30 November 2009. The NHS SMS will provide free training for NHS staff who will use the power of removal.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of nurses working in NHS hospitals. [301821]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to decide the levels of staffing required to meet the needs of their local population.

There are currently 89,304 more nurses (including general practitioner practice nurses) working in the NHS than in 1997. This represents an increase of 28 per cent. from 318,856 in 1997 to 408,160 in 2008.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking *(a)* to increase the level of access to specialist nursing care and *(b)* reduce hospital admission rates. [301822]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are responsible for the skill mix of their work force including the number of specialist nurses. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local community and must have the freedom to train and deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

To help trusts develop specialist nursing roles we have published "Long Term Neurological Conditions: A good practice guide to the development of the multidisciplinary team and the value of the specialist nurse". This guide has been prepared for commissioners and managers to highlight the role and contribution of specialist nurses. These principles are transferable to other specialities.

Copies of this guidance have already been placed in the Library and can be found on the Skills for Health website at:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/resources/latest_resources/long_term_neurological_conditions.html

Reducing unplanned and unnecessary hospital admissions is part of the Department's strategy to improve care and services for people with long-term conditions. The focus has been on implementing case management for those with complex health and social care needs who are most at risk of unplanned admissions. This is led by a community matron or other case manager who provides co-ordinated, proactive and personalised care at home or in the community setting.

In addition, the Department has made a commitment that everyone with a long-term condition will be offered a care plan by 2010. Personalised care planning and support for self-care will enable people with long-term conditions to plan their care, have strategies in place to cope with any exacerbations of their conditions, and have all the relevant information they need to make decisions about their health and well-being. This should reduce use of secondary care services, including unplanned admissions.

In the National Service Framework for Long Term Neurological Conditions, we had made it clear that specialist advice and treatment can be cost-neutral and may reduce admissions and length of stay and improve well-being. It is for local NHS organisations to implement this guidance.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for the allocation to primary care trusts of funding at the level determined by the formula announced in December 2008. [303422]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are committed to moving all primary care trusts (PCTs) towards their target allocations as quickly as possible. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, we have ensured that the most under-target PCTs benefit from the highest increases in funding.

Over those two years, revenue allocations represent £164 billion investment in the national health service, £80 billion in 2009-10 and £84 billion in 2010-11. PCTs received an average increase in funding of 5.5 per cent. in 2009-10 and will receive an average increase in funding of 5.5 per cent. in 2010-11, a total increase in funding of £8.6 billion.

No decisions have yet been taken on the future rate of progress towards target allocations. The rate at which PCTs will move towards their target allocation in future years will need to be considered in light of a number of factors including population changes, cost pressures and the overall resources available to the NHS.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup: Accident and Emergency Department

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated at the accident and emergency department at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, in the last three years for which figures are available. [302587]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected on the number of patients treated at accident and emergency (A&E) departments. However, data on the number of attendances at A&E type 1 departments are available and published quarterly via the Department of Health's Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Services dataset. This includes patients who attended A&E but who were not subsequently treated and counts each attendance by the same patient separately.

Smoking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are using NHS services to help them stop smoking in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [301754]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested. Information on the number of people using the NHS Stop Smoking Services is not available by constituency.

The number of people using the NHS Stop Smoking Services is defined here as the number of people setting a quit date. Information on the number of people setting a quit date in England, by strategic health authority and by primary care trust is available in table 3.8 of the "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2008 to March 2009" publication. This publication is available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/nhs-stop-smoking-services/statistics-on-nhs-stop-smoking-services:-england-april-2008-to-march-2009

Tranquilisers: Misuse

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 673W, on tranquilisers, when he expects to publish the results of his Department's review of policy on addiction to prescription and over-the-counter drugs. [303557]

Ann Keen: The results of the review of policy on addiction to medicines will be announced after the completion of the review in 2010.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals were used in regulated procedures at Wickham Laboratories in 2008; and how many such procedures were re-uses. [302772]

Meg Hillier: I am unable to disclose the number of animals used in regulated procedures at Wickham Laboratories in 2008.

Information on number of animals used in regulated procedures relating to individual establishments cannot be disclosed in order to protect statistical confidentiality, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007) and the national statistician's guidance "Confidentiality of Official Statistics".

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures were carried out on animals at Wickham Laboratories in 2008; and how many of these involved potency testing of botulinum toxin. [302811]

Meg Hillier: I am unable to disclose how many regulated procedures were carried out on animals at Wickham Laboratories in 2008 and how many of those involved potency testing of botulinum toxin.

Information on number of regulated procedures relating to individual establishments cannot be disclosed in order to protect statistical confidentiality, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007) and the national statistician's guidance "Confidentiality of Official Statistics".

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to those under the age of 18 years and in the care or supervision of local authorities in each of the last five years; [301713]

(2) how many people under the age of 16 years received an antisocial behaviour order in each of the last five years. [301795]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued collected centrally by my Department do not include details of whether or not ASBO recipients were in the care or supervision of a local authority at the time their ASBO was issued. This information could be ascertained only by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Available published data on the number of ASBOs issued provide an age group breakdown showing those ASBO recipients aged 10-17 and those 18-plus.

The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to persons under the age of 18 at all courts in England and Wales in each year between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to persons under 18 years of age[1] at all courts[2] in England and Wales, 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007

England and Wales	*Issued (aged 10-17)*
2003	628
2004	1,340
2005	1,581
2006	1,053
2007	920

[1] Where the age has been reported.

[2] This includes magistrates courts when acting both in their civil capacity issuing ASBOs on application and their criminal capacity when issuing ASBOs following conviction for a criminal offence.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued to those under the age of 16 years which were breached where *(a)* a parenting order and *(b)* an individual support order was also issued in the last 12 months; [301798]

(2) how many and what proportion of antisocial behaviour orders issued to those under the age of 17 years in 2008 had an individual support order attached. [301799]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to those under the age of 16 years which were breached where a parenting order and an individual support order was also issued is not available.

ASBO breach data compiled by my Department do not include details of whether defendants proven in court to have breached their ASBO were subject to either an individual support order or a parenting order. This information could be ascertained only by examination of individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued in 2008 are not yet available.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* individual support orders and *(b)* intervention orders in preventing antisocial behaviour. [301800]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has commissioned two pieces of work evaluating interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour. These are:

> Research to examine local variations in the use of antisocial behaviour interventions. This was the first step to developing further work into the comparative effectiveness of different approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour. The findings of this study are due to be published soon; and
>
> An evaluation of the comparative effectiveness of interventions to address antisocial behaviour. Results from this evaluation are due in spring 2010.

Three independent reports have confirmed that our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. The National Audit Office (NAO) reported that two thirds of people stop committing ASB after one intervention, rising to nine out of 10 after three interventions. Many of these were warning letters and antisocial behaviour contracts which are voluntary measures.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* shot at, *(b)* injured by shootings and *(c)* killed by shootings in each police force area in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [302447]

Mr. Hanson: Available information relates to 2007-08 and is given in the following table.

Data for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published in January 2010.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were fired and the principal victim was a police officer on duty, England and Wales, 2007-08

			Number of offences
Police force area	*Total*	*Total resulting in injury[1]*	*Total resulting in fatal injury*
North-east region			
Cleveland	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—
North-west region			
Cheshire	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	2	1	—
Lancashire	7	7	—
Merseyside	4	1	—
Yorkshire and the Humber region			
Humberside	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	1	1	—
East Midlands region			
Derbyshire	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	2	1	—
West Midlands region			
Staffordshire	—	—	—
Warwickshire	1	1	—
West Mercia	2	1	1
West midlands	4	3	—
East of England region			
Bedfordshire	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—
Suffolk	1	—	—
London region	6	1	—
South-east region			
Hampshire	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—
Thames Valley	2	2	—
South-west region			
Avon and Somerset	1	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	1	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—
Wales			
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were fired and the principal victim was a police officer on duty, England and Wales, 2007-08

			Number of offences
Police force area	*Total*	*Total resulting in injury*[1]	*Total resulting in fatal injury*
England and Wales	34	19	1

[1] Includes slight, serious (which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds) and fatal injuries.

Asylum

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that those whose claim for asylum is refused but who are unable to return home immediately through no fault of their own are allowed to work in the UK pending their return. [302156]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* It is not the Government's policy to allow asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers to work. The only exception to this is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC Directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, we expect unsuccessful asylum seekers to return voluntarily to their country of origin. A generous package of reintegration assistance is available to assist failed asylum seekers to return voluntarily to the country of origin.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to announce the conclusion of the review of the recommendations of the National CCTV Strategy. [302798]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* We are aiming to complete the review into the recommendations of the National CCTV Strategy by spring 2010.

Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of his Department and its agencies were convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [302464]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* We can provide complete information relating to this question only at a disproportionate cost. However, the information we do hold is set out in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: Number of staff convicted of a criminal offence

	Number
1998	[1]—
1999	[1]—
2000	0
2001	[1]—
2002	[1]—
2003	[1]—
2004	[1]—
2005	[1]—
2006	15
2007	9
2008	8
2009 (to 31 October)	7

[1] Less than 5.

Crime and Disorder Act 1988

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders have been issued under section 8 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 where *(a)* an antisocial behaviour order has been made, *(b)* a child or young person has been convicted of an offence and *(c)* in any other relevant proceedings in each of the last three years. [301796]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Parenting orders under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 and commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, the Criminal Justice Act 2003, Police and Justice Act 2005, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 amended parenting orders to increase their flexibility and widen their availability.

The available information is shown in the following table which has been provided by the Youth Justice Board based on the parenting orders that youth offending teams were involved in.

Parenting Orders by legal basis England and Wales YOTs

England and Wales	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Crime	1,069	1,014	1,049	3,132
Education	213	166	230	609
Other	—	—	—	0
Referral Order	183	227	295	705
ASBO	33	64	46	143
Sex Offences Prevention Order	0	1	0	1
Child Safety Order	0	1	0	1
Free Standing—YOT	7	16	8	31
Free Standing—LEA	0	18	21	39
Total	—	—	—	4,661

Note:
Data for Education and Free Standing—LEA categories may not be complete, as YOTs are not always informed of these parenting orders.

Crime: Public Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for *(a)* drunk and disorderly conduct, *(b)* assault, *(c)* battery, *(d)* sexual assault, *(e)* indecent exposure, *(f)* theft and *(g)* breach of an antisocial behaviour order there were on (i) trains, (ii) buses and (iii) aeroplanes in each of the last five years in the lowest recorded administrative division for which figures are available, broken down by the (A) age and (B) ethnicity of the person arrested. [302771]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary and drugs offences. The data are also broken down by age group, gender, ethnicity and police force area.

It is not possible to identify the number of arrests there were made on buses, trains or aeroplanes.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of incidents of violence against the person involved a *(a)* knife, *(b)* hitting implement, *(c)* glass or bottle, *(d)* stabbing implement, *(e)* firearm, *(f)* stone or stones, *(g)* syringe and *(h)* other implement in each police force area in 2008-09. [302446]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are two main sources of crime statistics produced by the Home Office: the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime.

The BCS is a victimisation survey in which respondents are asked about their experiences of crime in the last 12 months. Within this survey, respondents are asked about their experience of the use of weapons in violent incidents. Due to the relatively low number of people who experience a violent incident with a weapon, it is not possible to provide data at the police force area level.

It is possible to provide some information from various police recorded crime data sources, for knife and sharp instruments and firearm offences.

Knife and sharp instrument offences are collected by the Home Office by a special additional data collection. These data include offences where a knife or sharp instrument has been used to stab or cut, or in a threat. Included within the definition of 'Sharp instruments' are stabbing implements, bottles and glass (when broken prior to the offence) and syringes. These data are shown in Table A. The offences covered by this collection which fall within the violence against the person category are attempted murder, threats to kill, GBH and ABH.

Firearms offences data are also collected at force level via a special additional data collection. These are shown in Table B. The number of offences covered are greater than for the knife and sharp instrument collection, covering all offences within violence against the person where firearms could conceivably be used.

Tables A and B exclude homicide data as the 2008-09 data are not yet available. Publication has been pre-announced for 21 January 2010.

No data from police recorded crime are available for the other weapons types requested, hitting implements, stones or other implement.

Table A: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected violence against the person offences, 2008-09

Number and percentage

	Total of selected violence against the person offences (attempted murder, threats to kill, ABH and GBH)[1, 2]	
Police force area, English regions and Wales	*Offences involving a knife*	*Percentage involving a knife*
Cleveland	157	3
Durham	121	3
Northumbria	335	3
North East Region	613	3
Cheshire	474	7
Cumbria	72	2
Greater Manchester	1,244	5
Lancashire	592	5
Merseyside	456	6
North West Region	2,838	6
Humberside	256	3
North Yorkshire	175	4
South Yorkshire	397	3
West Yorkshire	693	4
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	1,521	3
Derbyshire	303	3
Leicestershire	270	3
Lincolnshire	126	3
Northamptonshire	224	4
Nottinghamshire	433	4
East Midlands Region	1,356	4
Staffordshire	591	6
Warwickshire	149	5
West Mercia	160	2
West Midlands	1,801	6
West Midlands Region	2,701	5
Bedfordshire	212	5
Cambridgeshire	261	5
Essex	399	4
Hertfordshire	60	1
Norfolk	83	2
Suffolk	151	4
East of England Region	1,166	4
London, City of	19	5
Metropolitan Police	5,242	7
London Region	5,261	7
Hampshire	430	3
Kent	394	3
Surrey	101	2
Sussex	534	6
Thames Valley	668	4
South East Region	2,097	4
Avon and Somerset	523	5
Devon and Cornwall	299	3
Dorset	30	1

Table A: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected violence against the person offences, 2008-09

Number and percentage

Police force area, English regions and Wales	*Total of selected violence against the person offences (attempted murder, threats to kill, ABH and GBH)[1, 2]*	
	Offences involving a knife	*Percentage involving a knife*
Gloucestershire	124	3
Wiltshire	138	4
South West Region	1,114	3
England	18,667	5
Dyfed-Powys	91	3
Gwent	111	2
North Wales	125	3
South Wales	374	4
Wales	701	3
British Transport Police	112	4
England and Wales	19,480	5

[1] Other violence against the person offences exist that are not included in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

[2] Homicide data will not by available until January 2010.

Table B: Firearms offences recorded by the police for violence against the person offences, 2008-09

Number and percentage

Police force area, English regions and Wales	*Violence against the person offences[1]*	
	Offences involving a firearm	*Percentage involving a firearm*
Cleveland	42	0.4
Durham	18	0.2
Northumbria	89	0.5
North East Region	149	0.4
Cheshire	42	0.3
Cumbria	36	0.5
Greater Manchester	440	1.0
Lancashire	107	0.5
Merseyside	178	0.9
North West Region	803	0.7
Humberside	54	0.3
North Yorkshire	14	0.2
South Yorkshire	135	0.7
West Yorkshire	254	0.7
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	457	0.6
Derbyshire	77	0.5
Leicestershire	67	0.4
Lincolnshire	22	0.2
Northamptonshire	74	0.8
Nottinghamshire	112	0.6
East Midlands Region	352	0.5
Staffordshire	50	0.3
Warwickshire	34	0.6
West Mercia	69	0.5
West Midlands	493	1.0
West Midlands Region	646	0.7
Bedfordshire	20	0.3
Cambridgeshire	21	0.2
Essex	128	0.6
Hertfordshire	25	0.2
Norfolk	21	0.2
Suffolk	22	0.2
East of England Region	237	0.3
London, City of	2	0.2
Metropolitan Police	1,295	0.7
London Region	1,297	0.7
Hampshire	95	0.3
Kent	77	0.3
Surrey	56	0.4
Sussex	29	0.1
Thames Valley	102	0.2
South East Region	359	0.3
Avon and Somerset	107	0.4
Devon and Cornwall	79	0.4
Dorset	11	0.1
Gloucestershire	46	0.5
Wiltshire	41	0.5
South West Region	284	0.4
England	4,584	0.5
Dyfed-Powys	16	0.3
Gwent	55	0.6
North Wales	49	0.4
South Wales	62	0.3
Wales	182	0.4
British Transport Police[2]	—	—
England and Wales	4,766	0.5

[1] Homicide data will not be available until January 2010.

[2] Data are not collected for British Transport Police.

Crimes of Violence: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* offences involving violence against the person, *(b)* violent sexual offences and *(c)* offences of robbery with violence there were in each basic command unit of the Northumbria police force area in each year from 2002-03 to 2008-09. [302535]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Violence against the person offences recorded by Northumbria police, by Basic Command Unit[1]

BCU name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gateshead	n/a	n/a	3,080	2,655	2,961	2,432	2,164
Gateshead East	2,143	2,236	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead West	1,240	1,062	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	5,649	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,289	6,019	4,953	4,914
Newcastle Central	1,738	1,804	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle East	1,182	1,166	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle North	1,587	1,733	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle West	1,519	1,439	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Northumberland	636	848	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Tyneside (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	2,683	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Tyneside (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,452	2,917	2,329	2,297
Northumberland (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	3,759	3,490	4,149	2,951	3,193
South Tyneside	2,568	2,500	2,252	2,637	2,711	2,289	2,023
South-East Northumberland	2,749	2,809	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South-West Northumberland	536	462	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland	n/a	n/a	5,435	5,472	5,492	4,591	4,556
Sunderland City	3,109	2,936	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland West	1,384	1,383	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tynemouth	1,573	1,378	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wallsend	1,371	1,443	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Washington	1,848	1,598	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria total	25,171	24,797	22,858	21,995	24,249	19,545	19,147

n/a = Not available.

[1] Basic Command Unit names and areas covered have changed over the seven year period

Table 2: Sexual offences recorded by Northumbria police, by Basic Command Unit[1]

BCU name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gateshead	n/a	n/a	221	197	164	142	126
Gateshead East	105	142	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead West	96	74	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	411	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	354	363	313	207
Newcastle Central	90	84	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle East	105	113	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle North	159	149	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle West	120	114	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Northumberland	40	47	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Tyneside (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	156	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Tyneside (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	198	151	122	108
Northumberland (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	281	256	249	189	189
South Tyneside	155	136	143	127	121	84	127
South-East Northumberland	185	178	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South-West Northumberland	31	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland	n/a	n/a	305	298	274	227	232
Sunderland City	131	130	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland West	85	85	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tynemouth	119	117	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wallsend	103	120	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Washington	124	129	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria total	1,656	1,653	1,517	1,430	1,322	1,077	989

Table 3: Robbery offences recorded by Northumbria police, by Basic Command Unit[1]

BCU name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gateshead	n/a	n/a	189	186	159	113	81
Gateshead East	187	172	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead West	66	55	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	373	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	345	406	277	281
Newcastle Central	128	113	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle East	106	69	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle North	101	85	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Newcastle West	143	123	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 3: Robbery offences recorded by Northumbria police, by Basic Command Unit[1]

BCU name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North Northumberland	2	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Tyneside (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	130	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Tyneside (after April 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	133	114	100	91
Northumberland (after April 2004)	n/a	n/a	63	73	74	72	55
South Tyneside	169	140	109	90	89	65	60
South-East Northumberland	75	56	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South-West Northumberland	2	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland	n/a	n/a	312	243	213	173	164
Sunderland City	201	158	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland West	52	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tynemouth	80	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wallsend	60	82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Washington	70	49	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria Total	1,442	1,223	1,176	1,070	1,055	800	732

n/a = Not available.

[1] Basic Command Unit names and areas covered have changed over the seven year period.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302419]

Mr. Woolas: The costs of maintaining Home Office websites (i.e. hosting, licensing, domain registration, and updates but excluding staff costs) has been as follows:

2008-09: £577,000

The projected cost for the financial year 2009-10 is £593,000. Again, this covers hosting, licensing, domain registration, and updates but excludes staff costs.

Deportation: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on deportations between 1 January and 1 November 2009. [301235]

Mr. Woolas: The deportation process is integrated with the removals process and we are therefore unable to identify a specific unit cost for deportations as distinct from other removal types. The type of costs incurred in deporting a foreign national from the United Kingdom are casework, detention, removals and enforcement costs.

DNA

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department plans to publish the UK Border Agency's asylum process instruction about storage and retention of DNA and isotope data of asylum seekers. [301018]

Mr. Woolas: Since 14 September an instruction relating to the UK Border Agency's Familial Relationship Testing pilot has been published, and is available on the UK Border Agency website. The pilot—which continues to run—involves the voluntary testing of families claiming asylum at the Asylum Screening Unit, where there are suspicions that the children in the family unit are not actually related to the adults as purported.

The instruction is clear about the secure handling of samples, and their destruction at the conclusion of the asylum case.

Another related pilot was also started on 14 September relating to the testing of isotope and DNA samples. This pilot (which was also supported by a publicly available published instruction at the time of commencement) sought to take non-invasive isotope and DNA samples and to use matching techniques to provide indications of possible country of origin.

The pilot was suspended on 5 October to allow for a review of feedback.

The pilot resumed on 20 November and will be supported by updated instructions reflecting the steps now in place to anonymise data, and addressing issues of sample handling and retention.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* issues of fixed penalty notices there were relating to uninsured drivers in each police force area in 2008-09; and what the average penalty upon conviction was. [302448]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on fixed penalty notices for motoring offences issued in 2008 are scheduled to be published in March 2010.

The Ministry of Justice advises that court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue has been received from student visas in the last *(a)* year and *(b)* five years. [301426]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) In the last year (12 months ended September 2009), £51,959,697 has been received from student visa and PBS tier 4 applications, including those from dependents

(b) In the last five years (60 months ended September 2009), £166,833,972 has been received from student visa and PBS tier 4 applications, including those from dependents.

Fingerprints: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people with records on the national fingerprint database were aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* from 10 to 15, *(c)* 16 or 17 and *(d)* 18 or more years old in each year since 1997. [302365]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued on the application of section 17 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 to the practice of Spitfire pistol tooling; and if he will make a statement. [303126]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Manufacturing equipment, machinery and tools are not covered by the provisions of section 17 and the associated compensation scheme. Any such items surrendered to the police are ineligible for payment and can be retrieved by their owner.

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were in (i) England and (ii) each police force area in 2008. [302452]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information relates to offences in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used during 2007-08, and are shown in the table. Data for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published on 21 January 2010. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

Data on arrests relating to gun crime cannot be provided since (a) the centrally held Home Office firearm offences database does not record detection or suspect data, and (b) offences involving firearms cannot be identified on the centrally held Ministry of Justice arrests database.

Firearm offences[1] (excluding air weapons) by police force area, England and Wales 2007-08

Police force area	*Recorded crime* *Total number of offences 2007-08*
North East Region	
Cleveland	15
Durham	45
Northumbria	78
North West Region	
Cheshire	59
Cumbria	18
Greater Manchester	1,160
Lancashire	349
Merseyside	398
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	
Humberside	58
North Yorkshire	17
South Yorkshire	202
West Yorkshire	332
East Midlands Region	
Derbyshire	70
Leicestershire	134
Lincolnshire	41
Northamptonshire	164
Nottinghamshire	240
West Midlands Region	
Staffordshire	123
Warwickshire	107
West Mercia	124
West Midlands	974
East of England Region	
Bedfordshire	83
Cambridgeshire	30
Essex	260
Hertfordshire	112
Norfolk	43
Suffolk	38
London Region	3,339
South East Region	
Hampshire	160
Kent	82
Surrey	70
Sussex	69
Thames Valley	322
South West Region	
Avon and Somerset	116
Devon and Cornwall	111
Dorset	21
Gloucestershire	43
Wiltshire	49
Wales	
Dyfed-Powys	25
Gwent	47
North Wales	53
South Wales	84
England total	9,656
England and Wales total	9,865

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[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

Fires: Atherstone on Stour

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with Warwickshire police authority on Government assistance for funding the police inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the firefighter fatalities at Atherstone on Stour, Warwickshire on 2 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [302496]

Mr. Hanson: We have regular discussions with representatives of Warwickshire police authority.

I have provided £3.045 million special grant to Warwickshire police to support this operation. I will also consider further requests from the police authority under the special grant criteria.

Human Trafficking

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has evaluated on any relationship between levels of human trafficking into the UK and economic conditions. [301224]

Mr. Alan Campbell: None.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of human trafficking his Department uses; and if he will make a statement. [301265]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The UK uses the definition of trafficking set out in the Palermo Protocol to the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Crime (UNTOC), "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children" which defines human trafficking as:

> "Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

Hunting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* charges, *(b)* prosecutions, *(c)* convictions, *(d)* cautions and *(e)* fines there were for breaches of the Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [302449]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty at all courts, given a court fine and cautioned for offences under the 2004 Hunting Act in England and Wales, broken down by police force area for 2007 can be viewed in the table.

The Ministry of Justice does not collect charging data centrally. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Defendants cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced to a fine at all courts for offences under the 2004 Hunting Act by police force area, England and Wales 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Number

Police force area	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Given a court fine*
Avon and Somerset	—	2	2	2
Cheshire	—	1	1	1
Cleveland	—	1	1	1
Derbyshire	—	2	2	2
Hampshire	—	4	4	—
Humberside	—	8	8	7
Kent	2	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	2	2	2
Lincolnshire	—	7	7	7
Merseyside	3	25	19	17
North Yorkshire	1	—	—	—
Northumbria	1	6	—	—
Suffolk	—	2	1	1
Thames Valley	1	—	—	—
North Wales	—	2	1	1
England and Wales	8	62	48	41

[1] Only forces with data have been listed in the table.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] The court proceedings statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Labour Migration

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the factors which affect levels of labour migration. [301400]

Mr. Woolas: There is a complex range of economic, social and policy factors that will influence levels of labour migration. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research published the results of research into the economic determinants of migration to the UK 2003:

http://www.niesr.ac.uk/pubs/dps/dp216.pdf

They found that a number of factors influenced legal migration flows including UK incomes relative to other EU countries and to source countries, the existing stock of immigrants in the UK and UK unemployment. The research does not cover asylum seekers, currently being considered. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W.

In addition to economic factors, the points-based system, which was rolled out over the course of 2008, is an important means of controlling migration for the purposes of work or study. In response to recent reports from the independent Migration Advisory Committee, we will be adjusting the thresholds that determine the points allocated to prospective entrants, and have reviewed the shortage occupation list, to ensure that our policy truly reflects the needs of the United Kingdom.

Missing Persons

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of missing *(a)* children and *(b)* adults of each (i) age group, (ii) nationality and (iii) region of residence have been recorded by the Missing Persons Bureau of the National Policing Improvement Agency since April 2008. [301254]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* The HERMES database used for the recording of missing persons data is an operational database used for policing purposes. The data are normally only used for management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics publications. The data are therefore provisional and may be subject to change.

A code of practice for the collection of missing persons data was introduced in April 2009. Although limited data have been collected as some police forces have implemented the code, it is unlikely that any meaningful and complete national picture of missing persons will be available until 2010, when all police forces will become compliant with the code. Meanwhile the available figures can be regarded as indicative only.

2,855 adults and 1,862 children were reported as missing to the Missing Persons Bureau between 1 April 2008 and 31 October 2009. Note that these figures relate to incidents of missing rather than individuals; the same person can go missing several times. 3,774 (80 per cent.) of these cases have subsequently been marked as 'closed' on the database (i.e. the missing person has returned or been located). However, research suggests[1] that 99 per cent. of missing persons are located within one year of going missing. Not all cancellations are received by the bureau. As force compliance with the code increases, the percentage of closed cases on HERMES will increase.

Data relating to cases of missing *(a)* children and *(b)* adults of each (i) age group and (ii) nationality are given in the following tables. Data relating to 'age' are given at the date of extraction from the database. The data have been grouped by Association of Chief Police Officers region and a total figure has been given for each region.

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[1] Tarling, R. and Burrows, J. (2004) The nature and outcome of going missing: the challenge of developing effective risk assessment procedures', International Journal of Police Science and Management, Vol.6, No. 1, 16-26.

Table 1a. Children recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

		Number
Age group	*Nationality*	*Total*
0-4	Afghanistan	[1]—
	Argentinian	[1]—
	British	20
	Indian	[1]—
	Iraqi	[1]—
	Polish	3
	Romanian	[1]—
	Sierra Leonean	[1]—
	Sri Lankan	[1]—
	Unknown	39
	Vietnamese	[1]—
0-4 Total		71
5-8	American	[1]—
	British	16
	Korean	[1]—
	Portuguese	[1]—
	Unknown	26
5-8 Total		47
9-11	American	[1]—
	Bangladeshi	[1]—
	British	11
	Bulgarian	[1]—
	Czech	[1]—
	Indian	[1]—
	Italian	[1]—
	Nigerian	[1]—
	Sudanese	[1]—
	Ugandan	[1]—
	Unknown	33
9-11 Total		53
12-14	Afghanistan	5
	Austrian	[1]—
	British	138
	Czech	[1]—
	French	[1]—
	Ghanian	[1]—
	Iraqi	[1]—
	Jamaican	[1]—
	Kosovan	[1]—
	Moroccan	3
	Nigerian	[1]—
	Pakistani	[1]—
	Romanian	3
	Turkmenistanian	[1]—
	Unknown	166
	Vietnamese	3
12-14 Total		328
15-17	Afghanistan	104
	African	3
	Albanian	4
	Algerian	8
	American	[1]—

Table 1a. Children recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

		Number
Age group	*Nationality*	*Total*

Table 1a: Children recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

Age group	*Nationality*	*Number* *Total*
	Angolan	[1]—
	Bangladeshi	[1]—
	Brazilian	[1]—
	British	505
	Bulgarian	[1]—
	Burundian	[1]—
	Chinese	20
	Colombian	[1]—
	Congolese	[1]—
	Czech	[1]—
	Egyptian	[1]—
	Eritrean	11
	Ethiopian	[1]—
	Finnish	[1]—
	French	[1]—
	Ghanian	[1]—
	Indian	12
	Indonesian	[1]—
	Iranian	3
	Iraqi	4
	Irish	[1]—
	Italian	[1]—
	Jamaican	[1]—
	Kosovan	[1]—
	Kuwaiti	[1]—
	Latvian	[1]—
	Lithuanian	[1]—
	Moldovan	[1]—
	Moroccan	3
	Nigerian	[1]—
	Norwegian	[1]—
	Pakistani	3
	Palestinian	3
	Polish	11
	Portuguese	3
	Romanian	5
	Sierra Leonean	[1]—
	Somalian	4
	South African	[1]—
	Sudanese	[1]—
	Thai	[1]—
	Turkish	[1]—
	Ukrainian	[1]—
	Unknown	552
	Vietnamese	65
	Zimbabwean	3
15-17 Total		1,363
0-17 Total		1,862

[1] Less than 3.

Note:

Exact figures in individual cells hidden to protect statistical confidentiality.

Table 1b: Children recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, April 2008 to October 2009

Number

	Age group					
ACPO Region	*0-4 total*	*5-8 total*	*9-11 total*	*12-14 total*	*15-17 total*	*0-17 total*
East Midlands	8	3	3	47	138	199
Eastern	5	3	7	23	93	131
London	7	4	7	11	87	116
North East	[1]—	[1]—	9	38	87	137
North West	17	10	5	28	144	204
Scotland	4	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	12
South East	6		6	74	372	458
South West	4	[1]—	[1]—	19	55	80
Wales	[1]—	3	[1]—	10	32	47
West Midlands	11	8	3	43	177	242
International	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	7
Unknown	8	11	7	32	171	229
Total	71	47	53	328	1,363	1,862

[1] Less than 3.

[2] 5 or less.

Note:

Exact figures in individual cells hidden to protect statistical confidentiality. Age group is based on age as at 23 November 2009.

Table 2a: Adults recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

Age group	*Nationality*	*Number* *Total*
18-21	Afghanistan	35
	Albanian	[1]—
	Algerian	[1]—
	American	[1]—
	British	169
	Cameroonian	[1]—
	Chinese	26
	Congolese	[1]—
	Czech	3
	Dutch	[1]—
	Eritrean	5
	Ethiopian	[1]—
	French	[1]—
	Gambian	[1]—
	German	[1]—
	Ghanian	[1]—
	Greek	[1]—
	Hungarian	[1]—
	Indian	17
	Iranian	4
	Iraqi	6
	Irish	[1]—
	Ivory Coastian	[1]—
	Jamaican	[1]—
	Lithuanian	[1]—
	Mauritanian	[1]—
	Moldovan	[1]—
	Nigerian	9
	Pakistani	5
	Palestinian	4

Table 2a: Adults recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

Table 2a: Adults recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

		Number
Age group	*Nationality*	*Total*
	Polish	3
	Portuguese	[1]—
	Romanian	6
	Sierra Leonean	[1]—
	Slovakian	[1]—
	Somalian	10
	Sudanese	[1]—
	Turkish	4
	Ukrainian	[1]—
	Unknown	140
	Vietnamese	12
	Zambian	[1]—
	Zimbabwean	[1]—
18-21 Total		490
22-39	Afghanistan	3
	African	[1]—
	Albanian	6
	Algerian	[1]—
	American	[1]—
	Angolan	[1]—
	Antiguan	[1]—
	Argentinian	[1]—
	Australian	3
	Bangladeshi	3
	British	534
	Burmese	[1]—
	Cameroonian	3
	Canadian	[1]—
	Chinese	13
	Colombian	[1]—
	Congolese	3
	Czech	[1]—
	Danish	[1]—
	Dutch	4
	Egyptian	[1]—
	Eritrean	[1]—
	Ethiopian	3
	Fijian	[1]—
	Filipino	8
	French	8
	Gambian	4
	German	[1]—
	Ghanian	3
	Greek	3
	Hong Kongalese	[1]—
	Hungarian	[1]—
	Indian	19
	Indonesian	[1]—
	Iranian	[1]—
	Iraqi	8
	Irish	8
	Italian	[1]—
	Jamaican	[1]—
	Japanese	[1]—
	Kenyan	3
	Korean	[1]—
	Kosovan	[1]—
	Laosian	[1]—
	Latvian	[1]—
	Lithuanian	6
	Mongolian	[1]—
	Moroccan	4
	Nepalese	3
	New Zealander	[1]—
	Nigerian	10
	Pakistani	13
	Polish	28
	Portuguese	9
	Romanian	17
	Russian	6
	Samoan	[1]—
	Saudi Arabian	[1]—
	Sierra Leonean	[1]—
	Slovakian	4
	Somalian	14
	South African	4
	Sri Lankan	3
	Sudanese	[1]—
	Swedish	3
	Tanzanian	[1]—
	Thai	[1]—
	Turkish	5
	Turkmenistanian	[1]—
	Ugandan	[1]—
	Ukrainian	4
	Unknown	371
	Vietnamese	3
	Yugoslavian	[1]—
	Zimbabwean	8
22-39 Total		1,207
40-59	Albanian	[1]—
	Algerian	[1]—
	Australian	[1]—
	Belgian	[1]—
	British	452
	Bulgarian	[1]—
	Chinese	3
	Congolese	[1]—
	Czech	[1]—
	Dutch	[1]—
	Ecuadorian	[1]—
	Egyptian	[1]—

Table 2a: Adults recorded as missing by Missing Persons Bureau, 1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

Age group	Nationality	Number Total
	Ethiopian	[1]—
	Filipino	[1]—
	French	3
	Gambian	[1]—
	German	[1]—
	Hungarian	[1]—
	Indian	8
	Indonesian	[1]—
	Irish	9
	Italian	4
	Jamaican	[1]—
	Korean	[1]—
	Latvian	3
	Lithuanian	[1]—
	Maltese	[1]—
	Nigerian	[1]—
	Pakistani	8
	Polish	15
	Romanian	[1]—
	Serbian	[1]—
	Somalian	7
	South African	3
	Sri Lankan	[1]—
	Tobagan	[1]—
	Tunisian	[1]—
	Turkish	[1]—
	Ugandan	3
	Unknown	325
	Vietnamese	[1]—
	Zairean	[1]—
40-59 Total		880
60-79	Afghanistan	[1]—
	Australian	[1]—
	Barbadian	[1]—
	British	112
	Chilean	[1]—
	German	[1]—
	Ghanian	[1]—
	Indian	[1]—
	Irish	7
	Italian	3
	Nigerian	[1]—
	Pakistani	[1]—
	Polish	[1]—
	Portuguese	[1]—
	Romanian	[1]—
	Somalian	[1]—
	Sri Lankan	[1]—
	Unknown	88
60-79 Total		228
80+	British	25
	Cypriot	[1]—
	Indian	[1]—
	Italian	[1]—
	Jamaican	[1]—
	Korean	[1]—
	Lithuanian	[1]—
	Nigerian	[1]—
	Unknown	17
80+ Total		50
18-80+ Total		2,855

[1] Less than 3.

Note:

Exact figures in individual cells hidden to protect statistical confidentiality.

Table 2b: Adults recorded as missing by Missing Persons B.1 April 2008 to 31 October 2009

	Age group					Number
ACPO Region	*18-21 total*	*22-39 total*	*40-59 total*	*60-79 total*	*80+ total*	*18-80+ total*
East Midlands	48	131	73	16	5	273
Eastern	33	99	75	16	4	227
Guernsey/ IOM[3]/Jersey	[1]—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3
London	50	172	65	25	7	319
North East	17	62	73	13	5	170
North West	75	184	106	30	4	399
Scotland	10	46	32	10	6	104
South East	131	165	167	43	7	513
South West	15	62	55	20	5	157
Wales	[1]—	23	22	7	[2]—	57
West Midlands	44	124	93	25	2	288
International	6	8	9	[2]—	[1]—	26
Unknown	58	131	107	20	3	319
Total	490	1,207	880	228	50	2,855

[1] [illegible] or less.

[2] Less than 3.

[3] Isle of Man

Note:

Exact figures in individual cells hidden to protect statistical confidentiality age group is based on age as at 23 November 2009.

Police: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks on police officers there have been in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each of the last five years. [302921]

Mr. Hanson: Data on assaults are not collected centrally by constituency. Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers in Bedfordshire for 2004-05 to 2008-09 are given in the following table.

Assaults on police officers in Bedfordshire, 2004-05 to 2008-09[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Assaults (headcount)
2008-09	94
2007-08	106
2006-07	124
2005-06	101

Assaults on police officers in Bedfordshire, 2004-05 to 2008-09[1,2,3,4]

	Assaults (headcount)
2004-05[4]	102

[1] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[2] Data are provisional.

[3] Data are collected by the Home Office on behalf of HMIC. From 2005-06, assaults data were no longer published in the HMIC Annual Report. Current arrangements for the publication of these data are that they will be released as supplementary datasets to the HMIC Annual Report by Home Office Statistics.

[4] Data for 2004-05 have been revised since being published in the HMIC Annual Report, when it was stated that the figures were being reviewed in the light of possible changes in recording practice. Source data were previously populated from the crime recording system, but this was changed to populate source data from the self-reported HR system.

Police: Databases

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to police forces on the long-term retention of images on public order databases following the Court of Appeal ruling in the case of Wood v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis [2008] EWHC 1105. [302086]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has not issued guidance to police forces on retention of images following the Court of Appeal ruling in the case of Wood *v.* Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

The Home Office is working closely with ACPO on the implications of the judgment for all forces and we will be acting on the recommendation in Part 2 of the HMIC review, Adapting to Protest, published on 25 November to clarify the legal framework for the use of overt photography by police during public order operations.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police funding for 2008-09 has been allocated to traffic policing in each police force area in England and Wales; how many dedicated traffic police officers there were *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available; and what percentage of the overall number of police officers these figures represent in each case. [302453]

Mr. Hanson: The Government allocate funding to police authorities in the round. The allocation of resources to traffic policing is a matter for the chief constable and police authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

There were 6,299 full-time equivalent police officers whose primary role or function was listed as "traffic" as at 31 March 2008 in the 43 forces of England and Wales, representing 4.4 per cent. of police officers.

As at 31 March 2009 this number fell to 5,992, representing 4.2 per cent. of the overall total.

Radicalism

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to encourage those affected by acts of extremism to report such events to the police. [300481]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government, when meeting with individuals and groups who have been targeted by acts of extremism, will routinely advise them to report any crime to their local force.

The Government are also spreading best practice on encouraging third-party reporting schemes where people are not confident enough or prepared to approach the police directly. This will contribute to achieving our objective of increasing the proportion of hate crime victims who report its occurrence.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether his Department plans to create a legal definition of the term domestic extremism for use by the police; [302128]

(2) whether his Department plans to issue guidance to police forces on the definition and use of the term domestic extremism. [302129]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have no plans to create a legal definition of domestic extremism. The website of the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit already sets out guidance on the definition and use of domestic extremism, which is a term used to describe criminal acts in furtherance of a campaign.

The Association of Chief Police Officers is currently updating public order guidance and training, and the Government will work with ACPO to ensure that revised guidance and training are clear on the use of the term domestic extremism.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much *(a)* time and *(b)* money was spent by police forces in (i) England and (ii) Wales in dealing with accidents involving drivers who qualified less than a year prior to the accident in the last 12-month period for which figures are available; [302511]

(2) how much *(a)* time and *(b)* money was spent by police forces in (i) England and (ii) Wales in dealing with accidents involving drivers under 20 years old in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [302512]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations have been referred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency by *(a)* regional police forces, *(b)* officials of his Department, *(c)* UK Border Agency officials and *(d)* HM Revenue and Customs officials in (i) 2009 and (ii) each of the last three years. [301303]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The majority of SOCA's operational activity falls within the scope of the United Kingdom Organised Crime Control Strategy, and is initiated, planned and executed in collaboration with one or more partner agencies, including other law enforcement agencies from the UK and overseas. In addition to this work within the Control Strategy, SOCA provides a range of support activities for partners, principally UK law enforcement agencies. There is, therefore, no single referral and adoption system.

SOCA's operational contribution to the UK Control Strategy in the three financial years since it was formed has been:

	Operations and projects
2006-07	404
2007-08	459
2008-09	556

This work, covering the range of threats outlined in the United Kingdom Threat Assessment of Organised Crime, is normally multi-faceted and involves concurrent activity by SOCA and partners, across the UK and internationally, aimed at a range of outcomes, including, but not confined to, criminal justice disposals.

Under arrangements agreed between HM Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), HM Revenue and Customs notify SOCA of seizures made at ports that meet specific criteria. SOCA undertakes systematic checks on every notification, but investigates only where the size of the seizure, significance of the criminals involved and operational opportunities presented are assessed as appropriate for further effective action, in line with the priorities of the UK Organised Crime Control Strategy. The number of notifications over the last three years has been:

As at 31 August each year	*Number*
2009	105
2008	99
2007	74

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Serious Organised Crime Agency is taking to disrupt the smuggling of guns into the UK. [301304]

Mr. Alan Campbell: SOCA's operational activity focusing on the threat from firearms falls under the UK Organised Crime Control Strategy, and in particular the firearms programme of activity. This multi-agency firearms programme, which is led by ACPO, aims to reduce the possession and use of firearms by organised criminals, and by street gangs involved in the drugs trade. This includes SOCA operational activity in collaboration with law enforcement partners in the UK and overseas targeting the importation to the UK (by fast parcels, internet purchases and conventional smuggling means) and distribution of illegal firearms and component parts.

SOCA currently leads 11 operations, eight projects and 11 single-strand inquiries under the firearms programme. SOCA also regularly shares intelligence reporting on firearms, including on smuggling methodologies, with those in law enforcement and Government in a position to use the information to take action against criminal problems.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new sexual assault referral centres he expects to be opened in the period to April 2011. [301805]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The recently published strategy entitled "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" sets out the Government's commitment to have a SARC operational in every police force area by April 2011.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what qualitative and quantitative data on people referred to sexual assault referral centres such centres are required to report to his Department. [301790]

Mr. Alan Campbell: SARCs are not required to report data to the Home Office on victims referred to SARCs. However, as set out in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy published on 25 November, accurate and comparable data are essential to enable local areas to plan, implement and monitor services for victims of violence against women and girls. As such, SARCs should seek to share appropriate data with local partners as necessary to inform assessments of service need. The recently published "A Resource for Developing Sexual Assault Referral Centres" sets out appropriate data collection procedures for SARCs.

Sexual Offences: Alcoholic Drinks

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on the number of victims of sexual violence referred to sexual assault referral centres who were intoxicated by alcohol at the time of the alleged assault in the last 12 months. [301811]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

Terrorism

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanisms the *(a)* National Public Order Intelligence Unit, *(b)* National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit and *(c)* National Domestic Extremism Team are accountable; and if he will make a statement. [300231]

Mr. Hanson: The National Public Order Intelligence Unit, the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit and the National Domestic Extremism Team report to the ACPO National Co-ordinator for Domestic Extremism, who is in turn accountable to the ACPO Committee for Terrorism and Allied Matters. The accounts of ACPO, as a registered company, are subject to audit.

Following the publication on 25 November 2009 of the report by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, "Adapting to Protest", the Government will act on the report's recommendations to review the governance and accountability structures of the national domestic extremism units to ensure they are sufficiently transparent and clear.

Victim Support Schemes

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what performance measures the effectiveness of *(a)* each independent sexual violence adviser, *(b)* each sexual assault referral centre and *(c)* the Sexual Violence National Support Team will be assessed; and if he will make a statement. [301807]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Individual Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) are not currently assessed by the Home Office. However, 'Rape: the Victim Experience Review', published on 25 November by Sara Payne and informing the development of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, highlights the important role of ISVAs in providing support to victims of sexual violence. The Review recommended that ISVAs should be professionally trained and accredited to put them on a par with other professional roles. As a result, we have committed to providing centrally funded and properly accredited training for ISVAs, including CPD, networking and best practice support.

Each Sexual Assault Referral Centre is assessed against performance measures which are based on local commissioning and service specifications. There is not a single national set of performance measures, although the recently published 'A Resource for Sexual Assault Referral Centres' sets out minimum elements that providers are expected to adopt.

The Response to Sexual Violence National Support Team offers free consultancy style tailored improvement support to all police forces and their local area partners across England and Wales providing them with the tools, techniques and information required to enable them to set up Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) to the standard set out in the national service guidelines published in October 2009. The value and impact of the team to local areas will be evaluated in 2010-11 as part of a wider evaluation of the NST programme.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of sexual violence have been referred to each Sexual Assault Referral Centre for *(a)* examination and *(b)* support in the last 12 months. [301808]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the proportion of referrals to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre for *(a)* examination and *(b)* support which have resulted in criminal charges. [301809]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support his Department makes available to post-pubertal adolescent victims reporting sexual violence wi[illegible] week of an alleged assault. [301810]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) are one-stop locations where victims of recent sexual assault can receive medical care and counselling quickly and empathetically, and which allow for the collection of forensic evidence for potential prosecutions. Young people can access the full range of examination and support services from the majority of SARCs which offer specific services for young people. This includes some SARCs who have a dedicated young persons Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA). We are encouraging all SARCs to ensure that they are able to offer the full range of quality services to children and young people. The Home Office has provided capital and resource funding to expand the number and quality of SARCs since 2003-04.

The Home Office has also provided just over £3 million to support ISVAs since they were piloted in 2006. ISVAs provide independent support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence and abuse throughout and beyond the criminal justice process. There are a number of ISVAs who work specifically with children and young people who have experienced sexual violence.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department *(a)* made available in 2009-10 and *(b)* plans to make available in 2010-11 to support (i) independent sexual violence advisers and (ii) independent domestic violence advisers; and if he will make a statement. [301802]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office made £860,000 available to support the expansion of ISVAs in 2009-10 and expects to do so in 2010-11. The Home Office also allocated £3.5 million in 2009-10 and expects to do so in 2010-11 to the regional Government offices to contribute to funding of both ISVAs and multi agency risk assessment conferences.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department expects to provide to support the operation of existing sexual assault referral centres in 2010-11. [301803]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The recently published strategy entitled "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" sets out the Government's commitment to double central investment in Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in 2010-11 making £3.2 million of funding available. We expect the majority of this funding to be used to support existing SARCs.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department *(a)* has provided in the last 12 months and *(b)* intends to provide in the next 12 months for the establishment and operation of the Sexual Violence National Support Team. [301806]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department of Health provided £0.7 million to fund the National Support Team on Response to Sexual Violence in 2009-10 and has committed a further £0.7 million for 2010-11.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department has obtained from the Metropolitan Police on the name of the principal suspect in the case of the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [302204]

Mr. Hanson: The investigation into the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, as with the investigation of any crime in the UK, is an operational matter for the police. It is not for the Home Office to intervene in particular criminal investigations.

CABINET OFFICE

Caparo Group

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department holds contracts with each company of the Caparo Group. [303108]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office does not currently hold any contracts with the Caparo Group.

Charities: Fundraising

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charities were found to be raising money for a purpose outside their charitable objectives in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [302141]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 26 November 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (302141) on how many charities were found to be raising money for a purpose outside their charitable objectives in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Your question is very broad and covers a number of potential situations. Therefore it is difficult to answer comprehensively. However we have analysed the information we hold on closed cases in our compliance function (which deals with the most serious concerns about charities), and found that between 26 November 2008 and 25 November 2009 there were 33 cases which involved charities acting outside their objects or misapplying charitable funds. I should stress that this figure excludes any cases which remain ongoing, or instances which have not merited our regulatory action but have been dealt with through giving advice and guidance to the charity concerned to ensure this does not happen again.

We recently published a report, Back on Track, on the work of our Compliance function over the last financial year, and this gives a breakdown of all investigations closed during 2008-09 by the issues involved. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

I hope this is helpful and would very happy to discuss this issue further with you.

Charity Commission

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much was paid in *(a)* expenses, *(b)* moneys to compensate for tax liability and *(c)* other remuneration paid to each commissioner of the Charity Commission in the last year for which information is available; [301627]

(2) what declarations of political activity have been made by each *(a)* commissioner and *(b)* executive director of the Charity Commission. [301626]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1290-92W.

Charity Commission: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments the Charity Commission has made to Mandate Communications/AS Biss in the last 12 months; at what cost; for what purposes; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302211]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 26 November 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (302211) on what payments the Charity Commission has made to Mandate Communications/AS Biss in the last 12 months; at what cost; for what purpose; and whether we can place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made.

We made no payments to Mandate between 24 November 2008 and 24 November 2009. However, in September 2008 we made a payment of £4,406.25 to them for the purpose of providing training. It is not appropriate to place a copy of the relevant contract in the Library of the House, for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

I hope this is helpful.

Childbirth: Poverty

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of people who were born into poverty in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [301817]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of children born into families in relative poverty is not available for any period.

This is because the main source of income data, the Family Resources Survey, is a snap-shot survey, capturing a household's situation at the time of interview. This means that the sample size for households with very young children will be small. It may also be the case that the response rate from families with very young children will be lower than usual and therefore may not be representative.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors her Department's website received in 2008-09. [301858]

Angela E. Smith: During April 2008 through to March 2009 the Cabinet Office website, www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk, has received 11,760,880 page views and 1,144,236 unique visitors.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the cost was of maintaining her Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within the Cabinet Office's responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year; [302410]

(2) what the cost was of maintaining *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the No. 10 website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining that website in the 2009-10 financial year. [302421]

Tessa Jowell: It is not possible to provide a single figure for the running costs of the Cabinet Office website as they are contained within the overall costs of the Cabinet Office e-media team, which is also responsible for all forms of digital communication. It should be noted that Cabinet Office does not supply forecast figures, only audited figures.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Prime Minister on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1482W, which explained that as a result of accounting changes it is not possible to provide a single comparable figure for the running costs of the No. 10 website.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in her Department. [301929]

Angela E. Smith: Cabinet Office does not have any posts designated as "scientific advisors" or scientific posts. However, there are a range of posts across the Department that require scientific knowledge or experience, depending on the nature of the role.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302698]

Angela E. Smith: Management information provided by the Cabinet Office's taxi contract has been collected since 2007-08; this information is available in the Cabinet Office's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, copies of which have been placed in the Library and are available from the Department's website. It is not possible to provide figures prior to this period without incurring disproportionate cost, nor is it possible to distinguish between journeys made by Ministers and officials without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Theft

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff of the Prime Minister's Office have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years. [302934]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

No Cabinet Office staff have been reprimanded, dismissed or prosecuted for theft of property during the last three years.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) her Department and (ii) its executive agency is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) her Department and (B) its executive agency have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302177]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office owns one minibus that is used by the Emergency Planning College. The licenses of staff are visually inspected by the trainer prior to attending the driving training course specific to this vehicle.

Staff are trusted to give accurate information. Equally staff are trusted to notify the Department should their circumstances change.

Cabinet Office does not check employees' driving licenses prior to the use of private vehicles for official journeys. Cabinet Office guidance states that if a member of staff uses their own vehicle for official travel they are responsible for ensuring the following insurance cover obtained at their own expense:

> Business cover insurance in addition to fully comprehensive insurance for the vehicle.
>
> Either fully comprehensive insurance and business cover or third party insurance and business cover for any motor cycle.

Cabinet Office has limited requirement for car hire. Provision of car hire services are contracted via our supplier Arval, which is responsible for checking that drivers are suitably qualified, which is further endorsed by in-house authorisation documents that state drivers must be qualified.

The Cabinet Office does not specifically advise staff on road safety if not using the Cabinet Office vehicle (minibus for which specific training is given).

The Cabinet Office would be informed by both the contractor and the person(s) involved should an accident occur.

There is no specific guidance should an accident occur in a member of staff's own vehicle.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* non-UK EU nationals and *(d)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; what proportion of the number of people employed in each sector the figures in each such category represent; and what the equivalent figures were in 1987. [300823]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* non-UK EU nationals and *(d)* non-KU nationals of working age were in employment in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; what proportion of the number of people employed in each sector the figures in each such category represent; and what the equivalent figures were in 1987. (300823)

The available information is shown in the attached tables. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates for 1987 are not available. The earliest available estimates on a comparable basis are for 1995 and these have therefore been included.

In the LFS the distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. These are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include a nationality breakdown.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Part 1: Employment levels for people of working age[1] in employment by public and private sector and by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending September 1995 and three months ending March, June, September and December, 2007 to 2009 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Public sector[1, 2]				*Private sector[1, 2]*				*Total employment[1, 2]*			
	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU[3] nationals[4]*	*Non-EU[3] nationals[4]*	*UK nationals*	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU[3] nationals[4]*	*Non-EU[3] nationals[4]*	*UK nationals*	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU[3] nationals[4]*	*Non-EU[3] nationals[4]*
1995 Q3	5,729	5,493	96	116	18,491	17,703	292	345	24,317	23,444	381	467
2007 Q4	6,305	5,979	148	218	19,618	18,617	859	936	26,050	24,718	1,010	1,163
2008 Q1	6,290	5,970	156	209	19,447	18,457	928	920	25,870	24,547	1,068	1,136
2008 Q2	6,349	6,025	158	236	19,404	18,388	917	955	25,882	24,532	1,065	1,201
2008 Q3	6,293	5,973	154	238	19,513	18,493	906	980	25,928	24,580	1,060	1,236
2008 Q4	6,387	6,052	136	266	19,249	18,296	925	1,005	25,749	24,372	1,062	1,290
2009 Q1	6,443	6,109	113	268	18,891	17,862	879	940	25,456	24,067	1,007	1,215
2009Q2	6,444	6,124	125	263	18,658	17,630	848	917	25,227	23,880	1,078	1,190
2009 Q3[5]	*6,514	*6,192	***130	**247	*18,779	*17,771	*822	*912	*25,416	*24,082	*1,080	1,160

Part 2: Working age employment in public and private sector by nationality and country of birth, as a proportion of the total working age employment in each sector. Three months ending September 1995 and three months ending March, June, September and December, 2007 to 2009 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	Public sector[1, 2]				*Private sector[1, 2]*				*Total employment[1, 2]*			
	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU[3] nationals[4]*	*Non-EU[3] nationals[4]*	*UK nationals*	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU[3] nationals[4]*	*Non-EU[3] nationals[4]*	*UK nationals*	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU[3] nationals[4]*	*Non-EU[3] nationals[4]*
1995 Q3	97	93	1	2	97	93	2	2	97	93	2	2
2007 Q4	95	90	2	3	92	87	4	4	92	88	4	4
2008 Q1	94	89	2	4	91	87	4	4	92	87	4	4
2008 Q2	94	90	2	4	91	86	4	5	92	87	4	4
2008 Q3	94	90	2	4	91	86	4	5	92	87	4	4
2008 Q4	94	89	2	4	91	86	4	5	92	87	4	5
2009 Q1	94	90	2	4	91	86	5	5	92	87	4	4
2009 Q2	94	90	2	4	91	86	5	5	92	87	4	4
2009 Q3	95	90	2	4	91	86	5	4	92	87	4	4

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates
- are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work.
- do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for public Sector Employment estimates.
[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishments, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces
[4] Includes self employed and unpaid family workers
[5] Includes those whose type of employer was not known
[6] Non-UK EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden only in 1995 Q3. Meaningful comparisons between 1995 Q3 and 2009 Q3 are not possible due to the changes in the composition of the EU.
[7] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period of the quality of the estimates, as described below.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Statistical Robustness
* Estimates are considered precise
** Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** Estimates are considered acceptable
**** Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Source:
Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Foreign Workers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) in which 10 employment sectors there is the highest proportion of migrant workers; [300559]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of migrant workers in each employment sector in each year since 2002. [300560]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking: (i) in which 10 employment sectors there is the highest proportion of migrant workers (300559); and (ii) the number of migrant workers in each employment sector in each year since 2002. (300560)

The available information is shown in the attached tables. Estimates of migrant workers, that is, people in employment in the UK who were born outside the UK, are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Such estimates are only available for eight broad industrial sectors. Therefore, in answer to the first question, Table 1 shows the proportion of the workforce in each sector that comprises migrant workers. Table 2 provides the number of migrant workers in each sector in each year since 2002.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the tables.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Table 1: Proportion[1] of non UK born workers aged 16 and over by industry[2], three months ending September 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Industry sector	*Percentage*
Agriculture, Fishing, Energy and Water	6
Manufacturing	11
Construction	9
Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants	15
Transport and Communication	16
Finance and Business Services	15
Education, Health and Public Administration	12
Other Services	11
Total[3]	13

[1] The number of non UK born workers as a percentage of all employed in each industry.
[2] Standard Industrial Classification 92.
[3] Includes those whose industry of employment is unknown.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Employment levels of non UK born workers aged 16 and over by industry[1], three months ending September 2002-09, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Agriculture, Fishing, Energy and Water	*Manufacturing*	*Construction*	*Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants*	*Transport and Communication*	*Finance and Business Services*	*Education, Health and Public Administration*	*Other Services*	*Total[2]*
2002	33	302	166	555	198	498	644	151	2,499
2003	25	283	110	605	184	507	711	157	2,591
2004	29	302	135	585	207	514	775	167	2,728
2005	34	330	140	611	239	562	832	163	2,935
2006	40	381	165	705	251	599	886	212	3,254
2007	49	439	182	722	285	697	914	211	3,549
2008	58	419	206	813	295	746	974	200	3,727

Table 2: Employment levels of non UK born workers aged 16 and over by industry[1], three months ending September 2002-09, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Agriculture, Fishing, Energy and Water	*Manufacturing*	*Construction*	*Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants*	*Transport and Communication*	*Finance and Business Services*	*Education, Health and Public Administration*	*Other Services*	*Total*[2]
2009	***32	**342	**190	*819	**292	*746	*1,012	**196	*3,684

[1] Standard Industrial Classification 92

[2] Includes those whose industry of employment is unknown.

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of

* 0 = CV<5

** 5 = CV <10

*** 10 = CV <20

**** CV 20

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Futurebuilders England: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments Futurebuilders has made to APCO public affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302212]

Angela E. Smith: Futurebuilders England Ltd (a subsidiary of the Social Investment Business) is an independent company, which delivers the Futurebuilders Programme under contract to the Cabinet Office. Details of individual contracts between Futurebuilders England and its suppliers are a matter between Futurebuilders England and the commercial supplier involved.

Government Communications

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in No. 10 Downing Street are members of the Government Communication Network. [302221]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Communication Network (GCN) is not a membership organisation. It is essentially an online network for professional support and development.

Any civil servant who works in a communication role can, if they so wish, register online as an individual to gain access to GCN and the resources it provides through its website.

GCN registration figures do not distinguish between Cabinet Office and No 10. Downing street.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people are members of the Government Communication Network. [302222]

Angela E. Smith: The Government Communication Network is not a membership organisation. It is primarily a virtual, online network.

Any civil servant who works in a communication role can register online as an individual to gain access to GCN and the resources it provides through its website.

Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 624W, on the Advertising Advisory Committee, who the members of the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board are. [302292]

Angela E. Smith: The current members of the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board are:

John Mayhead (Chairman, private sector)
Andrew Stott (Cabinet Office)
Mark Lund (Central Office of Information)
Sian Jarvis (Department of Health)
Sue Garrard (Department for Work and Pensions)
Tim Mack (National Savings and Investment)
Yasmin Diamond (Home Office)
Amanda Mackenzie (private sector)
Elizabeth Fagan (private sector)
Tim Evans (private sector)

Information Commissioner

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent discussions she has had with the Information Commissioner on his Office's policy of fast-tracking its investigations relating to certain requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; [302106]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Information Commissioner on the resourcing of his Office; and if she will make a statement. [302107]

Tessa Jowell: Any discussions the Cabinet Office holds with the Information Commissioner are confidential between both parties.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse has been of preparation of the report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on hon. Members' expenses and allowances. [302683]

Tessa Jowell: Cost of the Committee's inquiry is set out in its report.

Ministers: Visits Abroad

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2208W, on Ministers: visits abroad, for what reason the requirement for Ministers to inform the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before undertaking visits abroad was removed from the Ministerial Code when it was revised in 2007. [302289]

Tessa Jowell: I have nothing further to add to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2208W.

Senior Civil Servants: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the *(a)* Civil Service Code and *(b)* a Civil Service Management Code was found to have been breached following investigations of the activities of a member or members of departmental boards in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [303192]

Tessa Jowell: The Civil Service Commissioners publish information in their annual reports about concerns raised under the Civil Service Code, which is incorporated in the Civil Service Management Code. Copies of the Commissioners' annual report for 2008-09 are available in the Libraries of the House.

Third Sector: Finance

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her decision to divert funding from the Campaigning Research Programme to the Hardship Fund was made in accordance with Compact principles. [301964]

Angela E. Smith: Although this difficult decision to divert funding away from the Campaigning Research Programme to the Hardship Fund is not in line with Compact principles, the Government remain fully committed to championing the Compact.

Due to the feedback received from the third sector, the additional funding will provide grants to organisations suffering financial hardship as a result of the extraordinary pressures caused by the recession. This will mean that more third sector organisations will be able to deliver vital services to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society at a time when they need help most.

Unemployment: Northern Ireland

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the unemployment rate for *(a)* Catholics and *(b)* Protestants in Northern Ireland was in each of the last 20 years; [302337]

(2) what the most recent percentage unemployment rate is for each ward in Northern Ireland. [302338]

Angela E. Smith: These matters are now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the economic inactivity rate was of each *(a)* parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in each of the last 20 years and *(b)* electoral ward in Northern Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available. [302354]

Angela E. Smith: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Young People: Northern Ireland

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of 18 to 30-year-olds in each ward in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage of the population they represented in each case. [302356]

Angela E. Smith: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities in England have contracted out their provision for care leavers. [300763]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 342W, on children: databases, what the mandatory training for authorised users and administrators referred to comprises. [300710]

Dawn Primarolo: All authorised users of ContactPoint receive the following three mandatory training modules:

'Introduction to ContactPoint:' This module explores the background to ContactPoint and why it has been developed. It explains: what ContactPoint does and how it will benefit children, young people, families and users; the role of ContactPoint in supporting the broader aims of helping children's services work together to meet the needs of individual children and young people; how ContactPoint manages data; and the role of users in using and maintaining the system.

'The Using ContactPoint module,' which covers: accessing ContactPoint from the web application browser; editing certain personal details; changing passwords and security questions; gaining mediated access to ContactPoint; an explanation of how ContactPoint assembles the most current and reliable record for each child; and searching for and retrieving ContactPoint records.

There are also three additional sections that are optional, depending on the specific role of the user and local working practices: creating and updating records; requesting and removing a shield; and archiving data.

'The Understanding your Responsibilities' module which covers: the safe and secure use of ContactPoint; what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate use;

users' responsibilities under the Data Protection Act in relation to ContactPoint; an explanation of how ContactPoint usage is monitored; and the penalties for misuse.

In addition to all of the core modules, users working in data administration and user management, ContactPoint managers and ContactPoint trainers will also complete one specialist module appropriate to their role.

Children: International Co-operation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W, on children: international co-operation, what arrangements there are for the UK to report to UNESCO its progress on the promotion of education to foster a culture of peace and non-violence. [302682]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: There are no specific arrangements to report on progress and we understand that UNESCO has not sent any requests for information on the resolution to the UK Government.

Children's Centres: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there were in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield in each year since 1997. [303367]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table sets out the number of Sure Start children's centres that have been designated in *(a)* Enfield North and *(b)* the London borough of Enfield in each year since 2006.

	London borough of Enfield	*Enfield North constituency*
2006	7	0
2007	4	2
2008	6	4
2009	4	2
Total	21	8

Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* likelihoods for parents of multiple-birth children in placing their children in the same early years setting; [302517]

(2) what assessment he has made of levels of access for multiple-birth children to attend the same early years *(a)* settings and *(b)* sessions; and if he will make a statement. [302518]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government recognise that most parents would prefer siblings, including multiple birth children, to be in the same child care setting. Local authorities have a duty to ensure there is sufficient provision in their area, but this does not necessarily ensure that the specific needs and preferences of families can always be met. The availability of places within individual settings will depend on their occupancy levels and other factors. The Government make significant funding available annually (a substantial part of the £4 billion per year currently spent on under-fives education and care) to ensure that all children aged three and four have access to 12.5 hours free early education a week, rising to 15 hours in 2010.

For those working parents who pay for additional hours, provision is made through the child care element of working tax credit for parents of two or more children to receive a higher level of financial support than those with one child.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the level of access which multiple-birth families have to swimming pools and playgrounds; and if he will issue guidance to providers on the matter. [302520]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Sport England has advised that they provide two design guidance documents on their website which set out best practice advice on access arrangement to swimming pools. These documents can be accessed here:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_guidance_notes.aspx?sortBy=alpha&pageNum=3

The Swimming Pool Design document outlines the basic principles and concepts of good swimming pool design aimed at those involved in facility development. The Swimming Pools Checklist document is a checklist for reviewing swimming pool projects during development applicable to both new and refurbishment projects, cross referred to Swimming Pool Design Guidance Notes.

While they do not specifically reference multiple birth families they do reference the principles of designing and managing facilities to maximise use by families in general.

DCSF have advised, with regards to playgrounds, that they have made a substantial investment in providing all children and young people with safe and stimulating places to play. The Play Strategy, launched in December 2008, sets out Government's commitment to invest £235 million to deliver 3500 new or refurbished play areas, plus 30 staffed adventure playgrounds, by 2011.

Local authorities are required to consult with children, young people, families (regardless of the number of children within them) and the wider community to ensure that their views are at the heart of the design and development of these play areas in their local neighbourhoods. These play areas should be fully inclusive and accessible for all children, including those with disabilities and should offer open access play opportunities, in which children and young people are generally free to independently come and go as they please, and be free of charge.

Extra-curricular Activities: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* out-of-school and *(b)* holiday play schemes for children there were in (i) Houghton and Washington East constituency and (ii) Sunderland in each of the last five years. [301727]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of out of school clubs in Sunderland local authority in each of the last five years for which data were collected. The last year that Ofsted collected information on out of school clubs was 2008 as changes in legislation meant that new categories were introduced for the collection of child care data. Information on the number of holiday play schemes is not available as Ofsted do not collect these data. Information is not collected at parliamentary constituency level.

Table 1: Number[1, 2] of out of school clubs for children under eight years of age, position at 31 March each year

	Sunderland local authority
2004	20
2005	30
2006	50
2007	50
2008	50

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. [2] Data source: Ofsted.

Further Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of young people who have taken up a learning place under the September guarantee for school leavers in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Enfield in 2009. [303368]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information collected by Connexions services shows that 3,197 16-year-olds and 2,295 17-year-olds educated in the London borough of Enfield received an offer of a place in learning in 2009. Information on the number of 16-year-old school leavers who took up their offers will be available in February 2010. Separate figures are not available for Enfield North.

We have taken decisive action to strengthen existing provision and put in place new support, training and jobs for young people, and have announced plans to build on this by guaranteeing every 16 and 17-year-old who is NEET in January 2010 an offer of an entry to employment place, and the education maintenance allowance to go with this. This will ensure that those who were unable to accept an offer under the September Guarantee due to illness or personal circumstances, or who have become NEET since September, receive a further opportunity to reengage quickly in learning.

Gifted Children: North West

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Crewe and Nantwich constituency and *(b)* Cheshire East local authority area have been identified as gifted and talented since 2007. [301776]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The following tables provide data on how many children have been identified as gifted and talented in the January census since 2007 in the Crewe and Nantwich constituency and Cheshire East local authority area.

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number and percentage[2] of gifted and talented pupils[3, 4]

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Crewe and Nantwich	590	7.6	500	6.6	520	6.5
Cheshire East	2,090	7.5	2,160	7.9	2,010	7.5
England	282,310	6.9	331,580	8.1	353,210	8.7

State funded secondary schools[1, 5]: Number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2, 3]

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Crewe and Nantwich	820	12.5	740	11.5	950	15.2
Cheshire East	3,220	14.0	3,490	15.4	3,410	15.2
England	416,440	12.5	448,380	13.6	466,820	14.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed

[2] The number of gifted and talented pupils expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in the same cohort.

[3] Headcount of pupils.

[4] Excludes dual registrations.

[5] Includes CTCs and Academies.

Gifted Children: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* the Staffordshire local authority area have been identified as gifted and talented since 2007. [301591]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The following tables provide data on how many children have been identified as gifted and talented in the January census since 2007 in the Tamworth constituency and Staffordshire county council area.

Maintained primary schools: Number[1] and percentage[2] of gifted and talented pupils[3, 4]

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Tamworth	180	2.3	170	2.2	320	4.3

Maintained primary schools: Number[1] and percentage[2] of gifted and talented pupils[3, 4]

	2007		2008		2009	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Staffordshire	1,220	1.9	2,030	3.3	2,840	4.6
England	282,310	6.9	331,580	8.1	353,210	8.7

State funded secondary schools[1, 5]: Number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2, 3]

	2007		2008		2009	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Tamworth	450	7.8	510	9.3	520	9.6
Staffordshire	5,620	9.4	5,710	9.7	6,580	11.3
England	416,440	12.5	448,380	13.6	466,820	14.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of gifted and talented pupils expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in the same cohort.
[3] Headcount of pupils.
[4] Excludes dual registrations.
[5] Includes CTCs and Academies.

Holiday Play Schemes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* out-of-school and *(b)* holiday play schemes there were in (i) Lewes, (ii) East Sussex, (iii) the South East and (iv) England in each of the last five years. [302775]

Dawn Primarolo: The table shows the number of out of school clubs in England, the south-east Government office region and East Sussex local authority in each of the last five years for which data were collected. The last year that Ofsted collected information on out of school clubs was 2008 as changes in legislation meant that new categories were introduced for the collection of child care data.

Information on the number of holiday play schemes is not available as Ofsted do not collect these data. Information is not collected at parliamentary constituency level.

Number[1] of out of school clubs for children under eight years of age—position at 31 March each year

	England	*South-east Government office region*	*East Sussex local authority*
2004	9,200	1,300	60
2005	9,700	1,400	60
2006	10,500	1,600	60
2007	10,600	1,500	50
2008	10,700	1,600	60

[1] Figures over 100 have been rounded to the nearest 100 and figures under 100 have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Ofsted

Pre-school Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to each children's services department in each local authority for implementation of the early years single funding formula in 2010-11. [302159]

Dawn Primarolo: The free entitlement to early education for every three and four-year-old is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which has increased by on average 13.1 per cent. per pupil between 2008-09 and 2010-11. Funding has also been made available through the standards fund grant to support the flexible extension of the free entitlement, which local authorities can use to support the implementation of their local single funding formula if required (£340 million for 2010-11). It is for local authorities to determine in consultation with their Schools Forum the distribution of the Schools Budget (including the DSG).

Schools: Admissions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to make the rules on deferring and delaying school entry more comprehensible for *(a)* parents and *(b)* admission authorities; and if he will make a statement. [302519]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The DCSF will provide information to parents and local authorities about the benefits to children of entering reception class in the September immediately after their fourth birthday. The information will cover the right of parents to defer entry until their children reach compulsory school age.

Schools: Racism

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what requirements there are on schools to record alleged racist statements and actions which take place on their grounds; and if he will make a statement. [303553]

Mr. Coaker: The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a general duty on all public authorities, including schools, to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; promote equality of opportunity; and promote good race relations.

In 2006 the Department issued two guidance documents to schools on race relations. The first document, "Recording and reporting racist incidents guidance", states that a school must have a written race equality policy; advises on recording and investigating incidents; and recommends that schools should report all incidents to the local authority at least annually. The second document, "Tackling bullying around race, religion and culture", forms part of our overall guidance to schools on bullying, "Safe to

Learn: Embedding Anti-bullying Work in Schools". The guidance recommends that schools should record all incidents of bullying and use the data to monitor their anti-bullying policies.

In 2010, the DCSF intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record incidents of bullying between pupils, racist incidents and incidents of verbal and physical abuse against school staff. We intend to consult later this year on whether the new duty should require schools to report all bullying incidents to their local authority, and whether types of bullying incident (eg racist, disablist, homophobic, etc.) should be included.

Specialised Diplomas: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people are studying for 14 to 19 diplomas in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Enfield in 2009-10. [303363]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures from local authorities of numbers of young people enrolled on a Diploma course in September 2009 will have been submitted, collated and confirmed by the end of the year.

Specialised Diplomas: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students are enrolled on a 14 to 19 diploma course in each subject in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* South Yorkshire. [302125]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 14 to 19 Diploma was introduced in the academic year 2008/09. Data for this year were published via the DCSF website on 11 November 2009:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000888/index.shtml

The number of learners who participated in a course of study towards a Diploma for all or part of the academic year 2008/09 in *(a)* the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley and *(b)* the Metropolitan County of South Yorkshire, up to and including 31 August 2009, as identified by the number of diploma learners registered on the QCDA Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) data is:

	(a) Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley	*(b) Metropolitan County of South Yorkshire*
Construction and the Built Environment	35	122
Creative and Media	0	35
Engineering	0	58
Information Technology	0	44
Society, Health and Development	28	28
Total	63	287

Source:
Diploma Aggregation Service

Initial figures from local authorities on 2009/10 Diploma learners will have been returned and confirmed by the end of 2009.

Sure Start Programme: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to extend the operation of the Sure Start programme in Mid Bedfordshire constituency. [302918]

Dawn Primarolo: There are a total of five designated Sure Start children's centres offering services to around 2,900 under-fives and their families in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency. A further five designated children's centres are planned to be delivered by March 2010.

Local authorities are responsible for rolling out Sure Start children's centre programmes in their areas so that by March 2010 there are at least 3,500 centres, one for every community. We are on track to achieve this target.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to collect information on an annual basis to monitor the progress that is being made towards meeting emissions targets for housing and other buildings. [301944]

Joan Ruddock: The Government collect data on energy consumption and emissions from a variety of sources. The Digest of UK Energy Statistics, an annual publication available on the DECC website, includes substantial information about energy and fuel use in housing and other buildings. The energy and fuel use data are then converted into carbon dioxide emissions using carbon emissions factors supplied by industry or in some cases by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The emissions data are also published annually on our website.

Both energy use and emissions data can be found here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Carbon Emissions: Heating

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the electric heating sector of the proposed Standard Assessment Procedure methodology. [303321]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is currently examining all responses received to our consultation on the proposed changes to the Standard Assessment Procedure including those from the UK electric heating industry. Officials have since requested further information from the industry which we will carefully examine before any decision is taken in amending SAP.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many and what proportion of homes in Tamworth constituency classed as social housing were insulated under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date; [302892]

(2) how many homes have been insulated in the Tamworth constituency under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme to date; and what percentage of the housing stock in Tamworth constituency has been insulated under CERT. [302893]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not held centrally. CERT is a GB-wide obligation and under the governing Regulations, Government cannot oblige energy suppliers to report on where measures are installed under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. However, we are progressing a voluntary agreement with the energy suppliers to this end, which we hope to have in place this year. This will report all CERT insulation data into the Home Energy Efficiency Database held by the Energy Saving Trust, and allow area based analysis.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what qualifications are required for a person to undertake home energy advice work related to the carbon emissions reduction target. [303407]

Joan Ruddock: Article 3 of the Electricity and Gas (Carbon Emissions Reduction) (Amendment) Order 2009 sets out the qualifications required. These are:

(a) City and Guilds (6176) in Energy Awareness;

(b) Level 3 of the National Vocational Qualification 6049-03 (Provide Energy Efficiency Services);

(c) A qualification based on units one to five of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Home and Community Energy Advisers which qualification is awarded by a body which has been approved and quality assured by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator; or,

(d) A qualification that is recognised by a member state of the European Union, an EEA state or Turkey.

Climate Change Adaptation Sub-Committee

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates the Climate Change Adaptation Sub-Committee has met. [301715]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

The Adaptation Sub-Committee has so far met four times, on the following occasions:

30 July 2009
3 September 2009
23 October 2009
10 November 2009.

Departmental Legal Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of legal (i) representation and (ii) advice sought by his Department and its agencies in each year since May 1997. [300379]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is not able to determine this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301186]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, with responsibility for city and regional networks, on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers (i) planned to attend and (ii) attended the reception held by his Department on 10 November 2009. [303396]

Joan Ruddock: This event was attended by all DECC Ministers and one DECC special adviser.

Exhaust Emissions: Shipping

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions from ships in 2008; what initiatives are being considered to encourage retrofitting of low carbon technologies; and if he will assess the effectiveness of the introduction of a carbon levy on imported goods with income used to tackle climate change in the developing world. [300500]

Joan Ruddock: Shipping is responsible for some 2 per cent. of global emissions. We continue to work on reducing overall emissions on shipping, and will be seeking a global sectoral approach to deliver this in the Copenhagen negotiations, where the UK will be calling for a 20 per cent. reduction from 2005 levels. Establishment of a carbon price in the shipping sector will help drive technical innovation by the industry. We are in discussion on a range of options for funding poorer nations' efforts to tackle climate change, but we do not believe an import levy is an effective or efficient means to do so as it provides no certainty of environmental benefits.

Fuel Poverty: Wales

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of fuel poverty in Wales of the rise in domestic *(a)* energy and *(b)* gas bills to 2020 outlined in the UK Renewables Strategy. [302376]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Fuel poverty is a devolved issue and the response is therefore a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of fuel poverty in Wales in the last five years. [302549]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Fuel poverty is a devolved issue and the response is therefore a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Nuclear Engineering: Training

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to ensure that sufficient numbers of specialist nuclear engineers are being trained. [301748]

Mr. Kidney: The Government recognises the challenge of ensuring that the UK has enough specialist nuclear engineers to maintain and decommission existing nuclear power stations as well as building new ones. The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) in DECC is working very closely with the employer led National Skills Academy for Nuclear, and Cogent (the Sector Skills Council for the nuclear sector) to address this challenge.

Specifically we are improving science provision in schools, have charged Cogent with taking forward a training strategy, and have helped set up the National Skills Academy for Nuclear to improve the supply of specialist skills at all levels, including nuclear engineering.

In addition, DECC Ministers have regular discussions with the energy industry about skills development issues relating to new nuclear build.

The OND is currently working in partnership with a number of bodies, including Cogent, to develop a high level skills and capability plan detailing exactly what skills will be needed, the volume of different skills and when they will be needed in order to be able to have new nuclear power plants built and generating electricity by 2018. With this detailed plan in place we will then work to identify and close any potential skills gaps in the nuclear workforce before they become critical.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis was for the Prime Minister's announcement to the Confederation of British Industry Conference on 23 November 2009 that the Government had increased its plans for new nuclear capacity from 12 to 16 gigawatts. [303068]

Mr. Kidney: Government's policy is that it is in the public interest to allow energy companies to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations and that Government will take active steps to make the conditions right for investment and enable new nuclear to come on line as soon as possible.

Energy companies have announced plans to build around 16 gigawatts of new nuclear capacity. The increase in new nuclear capacity results from the recent commitment of up to 3.6 gigawatts by a consortium of GDF SUEZ SA, Iberdrola SA and Scottish and Southern Energy plc following their purchase of a site near Sellafield from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Nuclear Power Stations: Cumbria

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the risks of fluvial flooding to the three sites in Cumbria named in the National Nuclear Policy Statement as suitable for prospective new nuclear power plants. [302237]

Mr. Kidney: The Government assessed whether it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that a nuclear power station within the nominated sites at Kirksanton, Braystones and Sellafield in Cumbria could be protected against flood risk including the potential effects of climate change, storm surge and tsunami, taking into account possible countermeasures and mitigations.

This assessment included a consideration of fluvial flooding and the results of the assessment were published in the Nuclear National Policy Statement on 9 November 2009. This is available at:

http://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/nuclear

In assessing flood risk the Government have been advised in particular by the Environment Agency and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. Sites were assessed against the climate change allowances in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) and UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) findings.

The Government are consulting on their preliminary conclusions until February 2010 and will continue to work with the Environment Agency (and others) to ensure that the Nuclear National Policy Statement reflects up-to-date assessment of the strategic flood risk to the site. Detailed flood risk assessments would be required by the Infrastructure Planning Commission at the point at which any application for development consent came forward.

Power Stations

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his oral statement of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-33, on energy national policy statements, which generation technology will be used at each of the 20 gigawatt generation facilities which are under construction or have been consented to. [303555]

Mr. Kidney: The following table provides a breakdown of the power stations that are either under construction or have planning consents, by type. It is based on data from National Grid.

Gigawatt

Type	*Under construction*	*With planning consent*
Coal	0.0	0.8
Gas	5.1	6.7
Wind	2.0	2.7
Other renewable energy	2.0	0.6
Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	0.6	0.0
Interconnector	1.2	0.0
Total	9.0	10.8

Power Stations: EU Law

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which power stations in the UK have a limited life derogation under the Large Combustion Plant Directive; and when each is expected to close. [303393]

Mr. Kidney: The following power stations in the UK have opted out of the large combustion plant directive:

Ballylumford;
Cockenzie;
Didcot A;
Fawley;
Ferrybridge C;
Grain;
Ironbridge;
Kingsnorth;
Littlebrook D; and
Tilbury.

They must close by the end of 2015 or when they have run for 20,000 hours since 1 January 2008, whichever is the sooner. Within these constraints, decisions about when they will close are commercial matters for the operators.

Renewable Energy: Wales

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the UK Renewables Strategy, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the national cost of the renewable energy strategy by 2030 which will be borne by consumers in Wales. [302377]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The cost of the Renewable Energy Strategy, including the impact on average consumer bills was set out in the overall impact assessment, published alongside the strategy in July 2009.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uksupply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

The Department has not made an assessment of costs borne by consumers in Wales.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the average waiting times were for *(a)* surveying of property, *(b)* completion of insulation improvements and *(c)* completion of heating improvements under the Warm Front scheme for each of the last 18 months, broken down by local authority; [301950]

(2) how many people applied for a Warm Front grant in each of the last 18 months, broken down by local authority; and how many such applications have not been processed to date. [301951]

Mr. Kidney: The data requested are not readily available and will have to be extrapolated from existing records. Eaga, the scheme manager, has advised the Department that this process may take up to 10 working days. Once the data are available a spreadsheet will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many recipients of Warm Front grants in each local authority area waited longer than *(a)* three months and *(b)* six months for heating improvements to be completed in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009; and how long such recipients have waited in each case. [301952]

Mr. Kidney: The data requested are not readily available and will have to be extrapolated from existing records. Eaga, the scheme manager, has advised the Department that this process may take up to 10 working days. Once the data are available a spreadsheet will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many requests for funding under the Warm Front scheme have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each of the last three years. [302158]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Eaga, the scheme manager, does not record the number of ineligible applicants who approach the scheme seeking assistance, as such, the total number of requests for assistance are not recorded.

However, the total number of people receiving assistance in each of the last three complete years, alongside the total number of qualifying referrals, are as follows:

	Qualifying referrals	*Assisted households*
2006-07	303,136	253,079
2007-08	347,391	268,900
2008-09	308,473	233,594

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of including liquefied petroleum gas amongst the fuels eligible for funding under the Warm Front scheme. [302369]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The current Warm Front specification allows LPG systems to be repaired or replaced under the scheme.

The present regulations do not allow LPG systems to be installed as new measures. However, the Department is aware that LPG can provide a valuable alternative for many potential applicants, especially those in Park Homes, and is currently undertaking work to establish whether or not they should be included.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much money remains to be disbursed from the Warm Front scheme in 2009-10. [302370]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The funding allocated for 2009-10 is set at £369 million. At the end of November 2009, scheme spend will stand at £308 million, leaving £61 million to be disbursed over the remainder of the financial year.

Warm Front Scheme: Disabled People

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will ensure that carers and parents of all children with disabilities are able to access funding from the Warm Front Scheme. [302122]

Mr. Kidney: Householders with a child under 16, in receipt of one or more of the benefits listed as follows are eligible for assistance under the Warm Front scheme.

Income support
Council tax benefit

Housing benefit
Job seeker's allowance (income-based)
Pension credit
Income-related employment and support allowance

Householders in receipt of disability living allowance are eligible for assistance under the Warm Front scheme. However a disability living allowance award for a child in a household will not qualify for the Warm Front grant. A review of our fuel poverty policies is under way and part of its remit is to examine whether we can make existing fuel poverty policies more effective, including exploring whether we can more effectively identify and target assistance at the most vulnerable households.

Warm Front Scheme: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households within the City of Sunderland received assistance under the Warm Front programme in 2008-09; and how many such households he estimates will receive such assistance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [301729]

Mr. Kidney: The number of households who received assistance in the City of Sunderland under Warm Front in 2008-09 is 1,651.

The number of households who have received assistance within the City of Sunderland under the Warm Front programme in the period 1 April 2009 until 31 October 2009 is 1,217.

Estimates are not compiled on an individual city or local authority basis and therefore figures are not available for the remainder of 2009-10 or the period of 2010-11.

GREAT BRITAIN HOUSE OF COMMONS
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2009/2010

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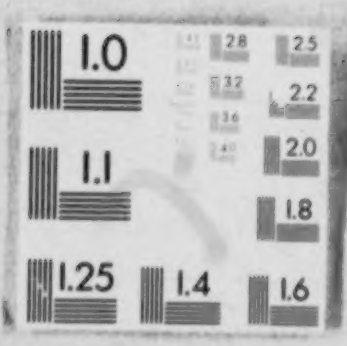

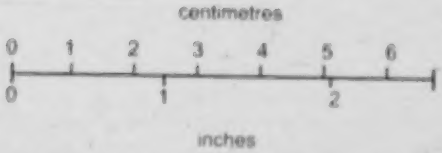

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 December 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303153]

Mr. Simon: The Capita Group plc have tendered for contracts let by the Department in the last five years as follows:

	Number
2008-09	1
2007-08	2
2006-07	6
2005-06	1
2004-05	1

Two of these tenders were successful, both in 2007-08. These were to carry out an executive search role to appoint the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Sport England and to provide the Department with a flight travel booking service.

Capita were paid £29,250 for the executive search contract in 2007-08. For the flight travel booking service the following has been paid:

2007-08: £31,234

2008-09: £127,235

Neither of these contracts will terminate after 2010.

There is no outstanding amount with reference to the executive search contract, while the flight travel booking service does not have an outstanding monetary value associated as this will be dependent upon the number of flights booked within the remaining term of the contract.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency has spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12-months. [303643]

Mr. Simon: My Department (i) produced an e-card using internal services, (ii) used no official funds for departmental Christmas parties and (iii) spent £559.44 on undressed Christmas trees (decorations were reused from previous years) for Christmas 2008.

The Royal Parks (i) spent £200 on Christmas e-cards, (ii) had their staff Christmas party paid for by The Royal Parks directors and (iii) spent no money on decorations in the last 12 months.

Departmental Contracts

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries since February 2009. [303763]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Culture Media and Sport does not hold any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303595]

Mr. Simon: There are nine full-time equivalent press officers employed by the Department and one full-time equivalent currently on secondment from another Government Department.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; how many in year bonuses were paid in 2008-09; and how much was paid out in bonuses in each year. [301015]

Mr. Simon: The Department makes non-consolidated performance payments to its employees for two purposes: *(a)* year end non-consolidated performance payments to reward highly successful performance over a whole year; and *(b)* in year non-consolidated performance payments to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations. These figures cover all civil servants on standard terms. They are exclusive of two key senior staff in the Government Olympic Executive, who were appointed on non-standard terms with fixed term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects extensive relevant experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of their remuneration were published in the departmental annual reports and accounts 2009. The data are set out in the table.

	Number of year end non-consolidated performance payments	*Number of in year non-consolidated performance payments*	*Total amount paid out (£)*
2008-09	219	178	517,167
2007-08	235	144	520,713
2006-07	149	96	392,114

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302701]

Mr. Simon: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's staff guide under Travel and Subsistence and is consistent with the civil service management code. Travel by Ministers is in respect of their ministerial duties and complies with guidance set out in the Ministerial Code.

The Department's records relating to expenditure and mileage on taxis are not analysed by the categories requested and to provide this would incur disproportionate cost.

As part of monitoring the Department's carbon emissions, the Department's supplier has provided the overall mileage incurred for pre-booked taxis since 2006-07. These details are set out in the following table. Records for earlier years and for hailed taxis are not available.

The total expenditure incurred by the Department on taxis since 1998-99, the earliest year for which information is readily available, is also set out in the table.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*	*Mileage (pre-booked taxis only)*
2008-09	32,179	7,276
2007-08	36,359	9,287
2006-07	38,421	6,002
2005-06	21,759	
2004-05	22,157	
2003-04	21,878	
2002-03	16,109	
2001-02	20,812	
2000-01	26,415	
1999-2000	21,686	
1998-99	15,891	

These figures represent expenditure on taxis and black cabs but exclude expenditure in respect of ministerial car service provided by The Government Car and Despatch Agency. In addition, some expenditure on taxis and black cabs included under general travel and subsistence account cannot be separately identified except at disproportionate cost.

Digital Broadcasting: Video Equipment

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have lost functionality of video recorders as a result of the digital switchover in *(a)* East Devon, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England. [303448]

Mr. Simon: Digital television services can be recorded using any standard recording device including video recorders (VCR). Therefore, in terms of recording functions, no one should lose functionality of their VCR after switchover. However, in areas where digital switchover has taken place, any VCR with an analogue tuner will not be able to independently record one digital channel while the TV receiver is tuned to another digital channel.

For Devon, Digital UK has estimated that around 1 per cent. of homes experienced problems with independent recording following switchover in the region. It is too early in the switchover process to quote figures for England.

Gambling: Addiction

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of problem gamblers requiring specialist treatment; and what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of voluntary contributions from the gambling industry for the treatment of problem gambling. [303708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The British Gambling Prevalence Survey (BGPS) 2007 estimated that 0.6 per cent. of the adult population are categorised as problem gamblers, however the Department does not hold data on the number of problem gamblers requiring specialist treatment.

The gambling industry has agreed to provide a minimum of £5 million each year over three years to fund the research, education and treatment of problem gambling. The Department continues to monitor progress against the agreed funding targets.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303343]

Mr. Simon: The Department has not entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries.

Pyramid Selling

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations his Department has received alleging breaches of the prohibition on chain-gifting under section 43 of the Gambling Act 2005 since the entry into force of that provision; and whether any prosecutions have been made for offences under that section. [302842]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not received any representations alleging breaches of the prohibition on chain gifting under section 43 of the Gambling Act 2005 since the provisions came into force. Information regarding any prosecutions for offences under that section would be held by the Ministry of Justice.

Sports: East of England

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports and leisure facilities there are in each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary local authority area in the Eastern region. [303185]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

Local authority	*Number of facilities*
Babergh District	191
Basildon District	247
Bedford District	433
Braintree District	247
Breckland District	210
Brentwood District	180

Local authority	*Number of facilities*
Broadland District	189
Broxbourne District	151
Cambridge District	248
Castle Point District	132
Chelmsford District	358
City of Peterborough	232
Colchester District	343
Dacorum District	378
East Cambridgeshire District	180
East Hertfordshire District	313
Epping Forest District	244
Fenland District	152
Forest Heath District	83
Great Yarmouth District	137
Harlow District	137
Hertsmere District	269
Huntingdonshire District	310
Ipswich District	210
King's Lynn and West Norfolk District	250
Luton	256
Maldon district	99
Mid Bedfordshire District	306
Mid Suffolk District	218
North Hertfordshire district	273
North Norfolk District	216
Norwich District	155
Rochford District	150
South Bedfordshire District	251
South Cambridgeshire District	343
South Norfolk District	287
Southend-on-Sea	266
St. Albans District	373
St. Edmundsbury District	236
Stevenage District	136
Suffolk Coastal District	323
Tendring District	177
Three Rivers District	184
Thurrock	236
Uttlesford District	189
Watford District	125
Waveney District	197
Welwyn Hatfield District	209
Total	11,029

Note
The number of facilities is not the same as the number of sites: there may be more than one facility on any given site.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what funding will be disbursed to the army cadet programme in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; [300759]

(2) whether he plans further to reduce the budget of the army cadet programme; [300760]

(3) what his most recent assessment is of the likely effects on recruitment to the army cadet programme of reductions in its budget. [300761]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 November 2009]*: The funding disbursed to the army cadet programme in 2009 was £42.46 million. In-year savings have reduced this amount by £4 million.

Planning is under way across the Army for next and future financial years but it is too early to say what the outcome of this will be.

We are extremely grateful to the adult cadet instructors for their commitment and dedication. As a result of their leadership, the vast majority of cadet detachments are riding out the temporary difficulties caused by the reduction in the Army Cadet Force budget this year.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military Land Rovers are deployed in Northern Ireland. [302822]

Bill Rammell: There are currently 266 military Land Rovers in Northern Ireland.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302414]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Identified direct expenditure on running these in the financial year 2008-09 was as detailed in the following table. This analysis complies with the guidance issued by COI on the methodology for identifying website costs in response to a Public Accounts Committee recommendation[1].

[1] Public Account Committee Sixteenth Report:
http://www.publications.parliament.Uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmpubacc/143/14302.htm

Website	*URL*	*FY 2008-09 (£)*	*FY 2009-10[1] (£)*
MOD Corporate Website	www.mod.uk	464,853	485,305[2]
Royal Navy	www.royalnavy.mod.uk	283,000	283,000
British Army	www.army.mod.uk	501,814	n/a[3]
Royal Air Force	www.raf.mod.uk	425,241	423,663

[1] Forecast costs for 2009-10 are based on the best available information.
[2] Excludes some external support costs which cannot be separated out from costs incurred in support of the internal Defence Intranet.
[3] Projected costs for FY 2009-10 are not available as the rationalisation of Army websites is in the scoping phase and costs are being defined. It is likely to be in the region of £1.35 million.

A number of other websites are run by different parts of the Ministry of Defence, but these are not managed centrally. This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Geneva Conventions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department gives British troops in theatre on their requirements under the Geneva Convention. [303565]

Bill Rammell: Aspects of the Geneva Convention are applied throughout military training and will be bolstered before deployment to an operational theatre by further mandatory training, common across all the Services. Irrespective of the theatre to which a person is deploying, specific training based on the Geneva Convention as applied to UK law must be fulfilled. This training includes: compliance with operational law, such as the legal basis for operations, the law of armed conflict, the application of the rules of engagement, the use of force, prisoner handling, understanding the powers of stop and search and the powers of arrest; culture and language training, including cultural awareness; firepower training, including identifying and engaging targets and reacting to fire control orders; and protection training, including procedures for challenging and reaction to direct and indirect attack.

All deployed personnel are issued a rules of engagement card, which specifies exactly the aspects of the law that allows them to conduct operations and react to hostile action.

Role specific training that covers the pertinent application of the Geneva Convention is also undertaken. For example, dedicated prisoner handling teams and medics are briefed in depth of their responsibilities that may be in addition to those usually held.

Trained and qualified lawyers are deployed on all standing operations and are an integral part of the targeting process, are consulted on all forms of the conduct of operations and are available for specialist queries if doubt exists.

Royal Military Academy: Admissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have applied for a place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in each month of the last five years; and how many of those applications were rejected in each such month. [302826]

Bill Rammell: The following table provides the number of applicants who attended the three and half day Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) and those that were successful.

Financial year	*Those that having applied to join the Army were invited to attend AOSB*	*Those that were successful at AOSB*
2009-10 to date	613	294
2008-09	1,482	816
2007-08	1,068	608
2006-07	1,602	843
2005-06	1,531	865
2004-05	1,140	604

Those that are found unsuccessful at any stage of the officer recruitment process will be given feedback on where they have not met the required standard. Those who attend AOSB and are unsuccessful are rarely rejected outright. Their application will usually remain open, should they at some point decide to re-apply.

These figures do not include: serving soldiers applying to become officers, potential Gurkha officers, Territorial Army applicants or professionally qualified officer applicants (doctors, lawyers, etc).

Somalia: Piracy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to contribute to measures to deter piracy in the Gulf of Aden in the last five years; what contribution his Department has received from the governments of (*a*) Kenya and (*b*) the Seychelles in such efforts; and what steps are available to armed forces personnel upon detection of an act of piracy on the Gulf of Aden. [300484]

Bill Rammell: We are taking the situation off the coast of Somalia very seriously and have played an important role in developing the military response to pirate activity. We have key command roles within all of the international task forces and continue to develop our strategies in line with changing operational and political requirements. Piracy is a symptom of wider instability in Somalia and the MOD continues to work comprehensively with other Government Departments and the International community as part of a coherent strategy to address the root causes of piracy.

The UK is providing a sizeable contribution to the military effort in the region and has a leading role in countering pirate activity off the coast of Somalia:

MOD has been at the forefront of the European Union mission – Operation Atalanta – since it was introduced in December 2008, providing the Operation Commander, the Operation HQ at Northwood, and a frigate for the first period of the operation.

The Royal Navy has a long standing commitment of frigates and a tanker to the Combined Maritime Force conducting maritime security operations in the region.

The Royal Navy is a contributor to the Standing NATO Maritime Groups, which at present are rotationally undertaking NATO's counter piracy mission – Operation Ocean Shield. The UK currently has command of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2.

The Royal Navy manned UK Maritime Trade Organisation has been supporting Merchant Vessels transiting through the region since 2001.

The UK has a bilateral arrangement with the Kenyan and Seychellois Governments which allows the transfer of suspected pirates for prosecution. Kenya is currently prosecuting eight suspected pirates detained by a Royal Navy vessel. We are very grateful for their ongoing support.

Royal Navy vessels and coalition forces in the region seek to deter and disrupt pirate activity. Specifically, Royal Navy vessels can actively search for suspected pirate vessels. The Royal Navy can also take robust action to come to the aid of a victim vessel under attack by pirates in international waters. This can again range from deterring and disrupting the attack to the use of reasonable force to defend the victims. However, the safety of any hostages involved remains paramount.

If suspected pirates are encountered, a decision will be made by the UK Maritime Component Commander, based on legal advice, on whether or not they could be transferred to a regional state for prosecution. If there is insufficient evidence to be confident of a successful prosecution, they will be released. Any piracy equipment found, such as ladders and weapons will be seized and disposed of accordingly.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pirates have been apprehended by UK forces off the Somalia coast; whether prosecutions have been brought against any of them; and if he will make a statement. [301402]

Bill Rammell: To date, eight suspected Somali pirates have been detained by the Royal Navy and transferred to Kenya for prosecution. A further 53 suspected pirates have been encountered during boarding operations. However, following detailed analysis of all physical evidence and witness statements, all suspects were released as it was assessed that there was insufficient evidence to be reasonably confident that a successful prosecution could be undertaken in either Kenya or (more recently) Seychelles. The subsequent destruction of any pirate equipment and weapons serves as a disruption measure and prevents their future use.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the effectiveness of controls over payments under the 2005 and 2006 Single Farm Payment schemes. [303425]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has, in the normal way, been in regular discussion with the European Commission to follow up audits of the 2005 and 2006 Single Payment Schemes. However, no definitive conclusions have been reached to date and further discussions are expected in due course.

Badgers

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences to move badger setts English Nature has issued in each of the last 10 years. [302760]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Policy on wildlife management issues is a devolved matter, therefore this answer relates to England only.

Since it was formed in October 2006, Natural England has issued all licences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Prior to this the licensing responsibility was split between English Nature and DEFRA depending upon the purpose for which the licence was to be issued.

Licences are not issued to move badger setts, but to trap and move badgers. The number of licences issued each year since 2001 is as follows:

	Number of licenses
2008	0
2007	1
2006	0
2005	1
2004	1
2003	2
2002	0
2001	2

Records are unavailable prior to 2001. The 2007 licence was issued by Natural England. The licences from 2001 to 2005 were issued by DEFRA.

Forests

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the implementation of the recommendation of the recent report commissioned by the Forestry Commission for an additional four per cent. of the United Kingdom's land to be planted with new woodland. [303437]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Forestry is a devolved matter so plans for woodland creation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a matter for the respective governments. In England DEFRA and the Forestry Commission are working with key stakeholders to develop a framework to encourage an enhanced woodland creation programme. This work is being undertaken to respond to the potential for woodland creation to deliver emissions abatement as outlined in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan and to the announcement that 'the Government would support a new drive to encourage private funding for woodland creation'. Progress on this work will be outlined in DEFRA's Climate Change Plan early next year.

Livestock: Antibiotics

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the level of use of the practice of using antibiotics as a surrogate for growth promoters in livestock. [303620]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the ban of antimicrobial growth promoters by the EU in 2006, DEFRA is not aware of any evidence to suggest that farmers are using antibiotics as replacements for antimicrobial growth promoters.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the European Commission on potential or actual applications by EU member states for additional time to phase out conventional laying cages for hens; [301717]

(2) what progress has been made on discussions on the introduction of an intra-Community trade ban on eggs and egg products produced by hens housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012; and if he will make a statement. [301718]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are committed to supporting the egg industry during this transitional period and DEFRA officials are continuing to press the Commission and work alongside the industry and any like-minded member states to ensure that everything is done to maintain the ban on eggs and egg products produced by hens housed in conventional cages across the EU. We will continue to discuss this within wider meetings of the commission and other member states.

We have not heard of any applications by other member states for a delay to the ban. However, we have asked the commission to be ready should any such applications be made: to provide sufficient enforcement controls to ensure the ban can be enforced appropriately so that compliant producers and member states are protected from negative impacts of any non-compliance.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee of Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) held on the 30 November, the commission made it clear to all member states that the ban stands and that it must be implemented in full on 1 January 2012, otherwise member states would risk facing infraction proceedings.

Rodents

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 961W, on rats, if he will assess the implications for his Department's policies of reports of rising trends in rat numbers; and if he will make a statement. [302782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: With reference to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 961W, on rats: the English House Condition Survey did not show a rising trend in rat numbers. Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1954, local authorities have a duty to take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats. We have no plans to change this.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 961W, on rats, when officials of his Department last met the UK pest control industry's Rodenticide Resistant Action Group; and if he will make a statement. [302783]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is not a member of the Rodenticide Resistant Action Group and does not attend its meetings. However, Natural England's Wildlife Management and Licensing Service does attend meetings as a member of the group and it provides DEFRA with expert advice with regard to operational aspects of wildlife management.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects have been funded by regional development agencies under the *(a)* Axis 1 and *(b)* Axis 3 of the Rural Development programme for England since the programme began; and how much funding was awarded for each project. [302640]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is not obtainable within the time available. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Thames Water and Yorkshire Water: Sewers

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 156W, on rodents, whether his Department has reviewed the revised sewer protocols of Thames Water and Yorkshire Water and their respective local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [302784]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has not reviewed the revised sewer protocols of Thames Water and Yorkshire Water and their respective local authorities. The protocols provide a mechanism for improved communication and co-ordination between the two privatised water companies and their respective local authorities with regard to the control of rats in sewers.

Water Supply

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will take steps to ensure water companies are responsible for water supply pipes to homes. [302112]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies are responsible for water mains and the supply pipes that run to the boundary of individual properties. Householders are responsible for the pipes within their curtilage. The Government have no plans to change these arrangements.

Water: Meters

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed by water supply companies in households in West Derbyshire constituency in the last three years. [303190]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of meters installed by Severn Trent Water, the water and sewerage service provider for West Derbyshire, over the last three years.

Household meter installation	*Meters installed*
2006-07	38,594
2007-08	33,215
2008-09	44,331

Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry, does not collect information on the numbers of meters installed by constituency and so this information is given for the whole area covered by Severn Trent Water.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Milk

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chinese authorities on tainted milk in that country. [303571]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the Chinese authorities on tainted milk, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Davies of Abersoch, and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) officials have raised with them the claims by UK companies for compensation against Chinese suppliers of products containing tainted milk.

Separately, the Department for International Development have recently signed a UK-China Food Safety Action Plan and are working with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and relevant partners on improving agricultural collaboration.

Devolved Administrations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has had discussions with the representatives of devolved administrations in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity since devolution took place. [303563]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain a comprehensive record of all contact between the current and previous Foreign Secretaries and representatives of the Devolved Administrations since the devolution settlement. There would be disproportionate costs incurred to provide this information.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302167]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following mechanisms are in place covering those staff using UK fleet vehicles for which Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services is responsible:

> The Transport Management Team request and hold copies on file of driving licences of all FCO staff who require hire of official vehicles and visual checks are carried out every six months. This is in line with Freight Transport Association (FTA) regulations.
>
> Staff are covered under a central insurance policy while using official cars for official duties.

The Transport Management Team within FCO Services monitors a range of measures to ensure road safety among their drivers including:

> All FCO Services large goods vehicle (LGV) drivers attend at least 35 hours of compulsory training every five years in accordance with FTA/Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency regulations.
>
> Transport Managers who manage drivers with legal commitments (driving hours, tachograph, 48 hour Working Time Directive) have all undertaken and hold the Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) in Road Transport. Drivers are also now undertaking the drivers' CPC qualification.

A programme of courses is in place to up-skill drivers which looks at driving techniques in difficult driving situations.

All accidents involving FCO Fleet vehicles or affecting FCO Services drivers are documented and investigated in accordance with law.

It is not possible to provide an answer covering official vehicles at post overseas without incurring disproportionate cost as arrangements are post specific.

No checks are made on the licences of those staff who use their own vehicles in the course of their official duties. Staff should ensure that their own insurance policy covers use for business purposes. There is no requirement for checks to be made.

No guidance is issued to staff in respect of road safety while using their own vehicles for official duties in the UK. Guidance may be issued to those staff using their own vehicles overseas although this would be specific to the post.

There is no requirement for staff to report accidents in which they are involved while driving their own vehicles in the course of their official duties.

EU Law

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what EU legislative provisions on police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters adopted on the basis of the Treaty on European Union, other than those that constitute part of the Schengen acquis, apply to the UK and *(a)* are in force and *(b)* are due to come into force; [302581]

(2) what EU legislative provisions on police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters adopted on the basis of the Treaty on European Union apply to the UK and constitute part of the Schengen acquis; and which of them *(a)* are in force and *(b)* are due to come into force; [302580]

(3) what EC legislative provisions adopted on the basis of Title IV of Part Three of the Treaty establishing the European Community that apply to the UK and constitute part of the Schengen acquis *(a)* are in force and *(b)* are due to come into force; [302583]

(4) what EC legislative provisions adopted on the basis of Title IV of Part Three of the Treaty establishing the European Community, other than those that that constitute part of the Schengen acquis, apply to the UK and *(a)* are in force and *(b)* are due to come into force. [302584]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

All EU legislative provisions on police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters adopted on the basis of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) apply to the UK, with the exception of the Council Decision concerning access for consultation of the Visa Information System (VIS) by designated authorities of member states and by Europol for the purposes of the prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences and of other serious criminal offences. The UK was excluded from that measure on the basis that it builds on that part of the Schengen acquis in which the UK does not participate. The UK is challenging this decision before the European Court of Justice.

The only other measures adopted with a legal base in the TEU which build on the Schengen acquis are those relating to the development of the second generation

Schengen Information System, where the UK will participate in the police and justice elements of that system. The Council is also negotiating a Council Decision with a TEU legal base to create a mechanism to evaluate applications to join the Schengen area.

We do not participate in any measures building on the Schengen acquis with a legal basis in Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEC). This is because the UK has not opted into that part of the Schengen acquis which deals with visa and immigration. This is one of the areas regulated by Title IV TEC (the other being civil law, which is not an area of Schengen co-operation).

Measures with a legal basis in Title IV TEC which do not build on the Schengen acquis are subject to the Title IV opt-in protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland, which means the UK can chose what it participates in.

To date we have opted in to 43 measures on asylum and migration and 15 measures on civil law. There are 82 measures which we have either not opted in to or have not been eligible to participate in.

Details of all adopted EU JHA legislation can be found at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/legis/20091101/chap19.htm

European Commission

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received any recent representations on proposals for an oath of loyalty to the European Commission.. [302757]

Chris Bryant: No, none whatsoever.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302754]

Chris Bryant: The requested information is not recorded centrally. However following consultation with the relevant directorates it is believed that no vehicle clamping charges have been paid.

Iran: Arms Control

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 662W, on Iran, on how many occasions the UK has interdicted Iranian weapon shipments in Afghanistan in the last three years. [301971]

David Miliband: The UK has worked with International Security Assistance Force to interdict shipments of weapons to the Taliban, including from Iran. It is the longstanding policy of the Government not to comment on specific operational matters.

Nigeria

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Nigeria on child welfare in that country, with particular reference to the situation of children identified by other people as witches or wizards. [302951]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain deeply concerned about the problem of children being accused of witchcraft in Nigeria. Our high commissioner in Abuja has been in frequent contact with the Governor of Akwa Ibom State to raise our concerns, including in July this year in response to information that charities dealing with the issue in the State had suffered intimidation.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also funds part of the work Stepping Stones Nigeria and the Child Rights and Rehabilitation Network are undertaking in Akwa Ibom State including a public enlightenment campaign, which we hope will help change attitudes towards so-called 'child witchcraft'.

Religious Freedom

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of *(a)* converts to and *(b)* adherents of Christianity in (i) the Middle East and (ii) elsewhere. [302684]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our embassies overseas regularly report and lobby on human rights issues, including freedom of religion or belief.

Our embassies have recently lobbied on the challenges facing non-Islamic faiths in Algeria, analysed the Egyptian authorities' record on promoting and protecting the rights of Christians in Egypt, and encouraged the Government of Iraq to protect all communities regardless of political, ethnic or religious affiliation. Outside of the middle east, we remain concerned about the suppression of religious freedoms in countries such as China, North Korea and Uzbekistan. We raise these concerns in our regular human rights dialogues with China, and with other Governments at appropriate opportunities.

The UK strongly supports the right to freedom of religion or belief, including the right to manifest one's religion or belief, the right to change one's religion or belief and the right not to hold any religious belief. We work closely with EU partners to promote freedom of religion or belief as part of our wider support for human rights. In November, the European Council reaffirmed its strong commitment to freedom of religion or belief and the importance of EU action to promote and protect it.

Russia: Politics and Government

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Russian government on *(a)* the rule of law, *(b)* property rights, *(c)* human rights and *(d)* political stability in the Russian Federation; and if he will make a statement. [303661]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had detailed and wide ranging discussions with Foreign Minister Lavrov when he visited Moscow from 1 to 3 November 2009. Topics included our concerns about human rights and the rule of law. The Foreign Secretary stressed both the importance of effective investigations into attacks on human rights defenders and journalists, including in the North Caucasus, and the importance of the rule of law in protecting property rights and safeguarding investments. The Foreign Secretary also met non-governmental organisations and civil society in Moscow, when he listened to their concerns and reasserted that the UK will continue raising human rights concerns as part of a comprehensive dialogue with the Russian authorities. I followed up these discussions during my recent meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Karasin.

Human rights and the progress of Russian democracy are high on the agenda and we do not shy away from making our concerns known. We support President Medvedev's ambition to improve the rule of law in Russia, as an important way of protecting human rights and reducing corruption. We want to see democracy in Russia deliver political pluralism and all its associated freedoms. We believe that an open and democratic Russia will provide better opportunities for the Russian people and consolidate Russia as a stable and reliable international partner for the global community.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent £1.5 million supporting local human rights projects in Russia in 2008-09. These included promoting media freedom and journalists' safety, particularly in the North Caucasus, preventing interethnic conflict and working with the families of conflict victims to improve access to justice through the European Court of Human Rights.

Serbia

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it a condition of Serbia's accession to the European Union that that country shall not be able to exercise a veto over subsequent accession by Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [302390]

Chris Bryant: The UK firmly supports the perspective of EU membership for both Serbia and Kosovo. In so doing, the UK emphasises the importance the EU attaches to good neighbourly relations, a factor which is formally taken into account as part of an applicant country's accession process. Against this background, the UK continues to give firm encouragement to both Serbia and Kosovo to work together to develop a constructive relationship, in order to reinforce stability in the region and facilitate the prospects for its EU integration.

Uzbekistan

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the decision by the European Council not to renew the remaining restrictive measures against Uzbekistan as set out in the Common Position 2008/843/CFSP, with particular reference to the *(a)* sale, *(b)* supply, *(c)* transfer and *(d)* export of arms and related material to that country. [303379]

Chris Bryant: Many EU partners took the view that the sanctions against Uzbekistan had served their purpose. The sanctions would have expired by default on 13 November 2009 in the absence of consensus among member states to renew them. We supported the corresponding 2009 Council Conclusions—which maintain the need for progress in Uzbekistan and which contain a review mechanism—achieved that. We hope Uzbekistan will grasp this opportunity to work constructively with the EU and introduce further governance and human rights reforms. The UK stands ready to support that process. I underlined these points in a recent meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ganiev.

Arms exports to Uzbekistan will still be controlled by consolidated EU and national arms export licensing criteria. The latter covers the export—including sale, supply and transfer—of military and dual-use rated goods. The EU criteria require an assessment of whether the goods might be used for internal repression.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis for alcohol-related disease there were in each strategic health authority area *(a)* in absolute terms and *(b)* as a proportion of the population of the relevant area in each year since 2004-05. [302537]

Ann Keen: Information on consultant episodes with a primary alcohol-related diagnosis is only produced for admission episodes, the first episode in a hospital spell. Admission episodes accounted for 87 per cent. of all episodes in 2008-09. The following table gives the number and rate of admission episodes in England of patients with a primary alcohol-related diagnosis.

Number and rate of hospital admissions in England of patients with a primary alcohol-related diagnosis

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
Strategic health authority	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*
North East	11,398	448	11,783	462	12,264	480	12,126	473	12,554	487
North West	28,590	417	31,888	464	33,252	483	34,394	499	35,496	516

Number and rate of hospital admissions in England of patients with a primary alcohol-related diagnosis

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
Strategic health authority	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*	*Number of admission*	*Crude rate of admission per 100,000 population*
Yorkshire and the Humber	17,261	341	18,684	366	18,851	367	19,725	381	20,129	386
East Midlands	14,819	348	16,332	380	17,130	395	17,151	393	17,506	395
West Midlands	20,357	382	22,321	417	24,742	461	22,490	418	24,372	450
East of England	15,800	287	17,083	307	17,543	313	18,285	323	18,660	326
London	22,664	307	24,830	333	26,232	349	25,913	343	26,689	350
South East Coast	12,323	295	13,136	312	13,915	328	14,563	341	15,015	348
South Central	10,394	264	11,280	284	10,750	269	11,497	285	11,383	280
South West	17,469	346	18,875	371	19,567	381	20,245	391	21,051	404
Unknown/no fixed abode	2,459	n/a	3,219	n/a	3,211	n/a	4,031	n/a	3,500	n/a
England	173,532	346	189,431	375	197,457	389	200,420	392	206,355	401

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

3. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

4. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

5. Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

7. Assignment of Episodes to Years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

8. n/a = not available.

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Ambulance Services: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of blue light emergency cases in the London Borough of Bexley were taken to *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich and *(c)* Darenth Valley Hospital, Dartford, in the last three years for which figures are available. [302592]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We do not hold reliable information in the form requested. We have some experimental data but they are poor in quality and unreliable.

Brain Cancer

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the standard of treatment of acoustic neuromas; what steps his Department is taking to raise the level of public awareness of that condition; and if he will make a statement. [303043]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the standard of treatment of acoustic neuromas. The NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/acoustic-neuroma/Pages/Introduction.aspx

contains detailed information suitable for health professionals and the general public on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of this rare neurological condition.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of mammogram scans which are reviewed by (i) one and (ii) two clinicians; and if he will make a statement. [302653]

Ann Keen: Information collected for 2007-08 by the Cancer Screening Evaluation Unit showed that over 95 per cent. of mammogram screens were read by two qualified readers. This is the latest period for which information is available. There were 1.7 million women were screened in this period.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of availability of *(a)* dialysis and *(b)* cancer services for residents of the London Borough of Bexley. [302103]

Ann Keen: Information on the local availability of dialysis and cancer services is not collected centrally.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of young *(a)* males under 24 years old and *(b)* other people participating in Chlamydia screening. [302404]

Gillian Merron: In July 2009 the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) published "Involving young men in Chlamydia screening: a practical guide" aimed at improving access to high quality Chlamydia screening services for young men. The NCSP does monitor and publish on a quarterly basis the number of young male screened in the community.

On 30 November 2009, the Department and the Department for Children Schools and Families, together with the NCSP launched a new public information campaign to tackle the ongoing need to increase knowledge around sexual health, including Chlamydia screening, amongst young men and women.

In January 2010 the Department will be introducing a Chlamydia specific strand to this campaign to raise awareness of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme and to encourage people to accept a test when offered.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303600]

Phil Hope: As of 1 April 2009 the media centre employed 33 full-time and two part-time press officers, making a total of 34.2 full-time equivalent press officers. This figure includes four full-time members of staff who joined the media centre from NHS Connecting for Health following the merger of the media relations functions of the two organisations in April 2009.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302721]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the Royal College of Surgeons on the European Working Time Directive. [303054]

Ann Keen: We are in monthly contact with the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges meetings, the National European Working Time Directive Reference Group and the Medical Education England Programme Board of which RCS is a member. There are also other meetings. The RCS recently published their college policy document.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he took of representations from the Royal College of Surgeons on the European Working Time Directive before the implementation of that Directive; and if he will make a statement. [303055]

Ann Keen: Before 1 August 2009 we had been in regular contact with Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), the Academy of Royal Colleges and the National European Working Time Directive (EWTD) Reference Group of which RCS is a member. There have also been meetings between RCS and the Departments National Clinical Advisor for EWTD and other officials.

Heart Diseases: Children

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the report of the National Specialised Commissioning Group on children's cardiac surgery services in England; what considerations he is taking into account in respect of proposed reconfiguration of these services; and what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the level of specialisation required for children's heart surgery in the last three years. [302953]

Ann Keen: The National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) will publish recommendations on children's cardiac surgery services in England in September 2010. The considerations that will be taken into account by the NSCG are for children's heart surgery services and critical inter-dependent services to be high quality, safe, sustainable and accessible, with as many of the non-interventional elements of care being provided locally as is safe and sustainable.

The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on the level of specialisation required for children's heart surgery but the NSCG will publish the evidence on which recommendations for reconfiguration are based in September 2010.

Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to introduce statutory regulation of herbal medicine and herbal medicine practitioners. [302646]

Ann Keen: The Department has recently undertaken a consultation exercise on whether acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine practitioners should be regulated and if so how. Due to the overwhelming number of responses received it is likely to be the spring before the analysis is complete and a decision can be made on the way forward.

The regulation of herbal medicinal products is covered by provisions of European and United Kingdom legislation.

Internet: Health Hazards

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent studies his Department has carried out on the effect of wi-fi on the health of *(a)* people who are electro-sensitive and *(b)* others. [303441]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Government in relation to the protection of communities from radiation hazards, including those associated with exposure to non-ionising radiation such as the radio waves from wireless communication systems. The HPA has concluded that there is no consistent evidence to date that exposure to radio waves from wireless networks adversely affects the health of the general population and that there is no reason why schools and others should not use wi-fi equipment. The HPA also keeps the situation under review.

The HPA has reviewed technical standards and wireless equipment used in United Kingdom schools, and performed laboratory measurements with examples of typical equipment. The results are consistent with the position that exposures to the radio waves from Wi-Fi equipment are not expected to exceed internationally-accepted guidelines and that they are less than from mobile telephones. Further measurements in school classrooms are planned, as are computer modelling studies. Information about these studies is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/HPA/Topics/Radiation/
UnderstandingRadiation/1199451940308/

The Department of Health has not commissioned or undertaken any studies specifically on the effect of wi-fi on the health of people who are reportedly electrosensitive. The independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and industry, has investigated whether electrical hypersensitivity symptoms result from exposure to radiofrequency fields emitted by mobile telephones. In its 2007 report the MTHR Programme Management Committee concluded that the MTHR research results, taken together with earlier evidence, offered no support for this hypothesis. The MTHR report is available at:

www.mthr.org.uk/

Maternity Services: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of maternity services for residents in the London Borough of Bexley; and if he will make a statement. [302500]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service.

Mentally Ill: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the incidence of mental illness amongst children in each of the last 12 years; and what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* trends in that incidence and *(b)* contributing factors to mental illness in children. [300660]

Phil Hope: This Department has not made its own estimates of the level of mental illness among children in each of the last 12 years. It commissioned the Office of National Statistics to carry out surveys in 1999 and 2004 on the mental health of children and young people in Great Britain. The 2004 survey found that nearly one in 10 children aged five to 16 had a clinically diagnosable mental disorder. The 1999 survey, which covered children aged five to 15, produced a similar result. Earlier surveys have shown that the proportion of young people with hyperactive or emotional problems increased significantly between 1974 and 1999 but this increase may not reflect and increase in incidence, but rather greater awareness of conditions. No recent assessments have been carried out on trends because of the difficulty in identifying the extent to which other factors, such as greater awareness of conditions, have contributed to changes in incidence.

A three-year study by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), commissioned by the Department and the Scottish Executive, "Three Years On: A survey of the emotional development and wellbeing of children and young people" published in October 2008 tracked the emotional wellbeing of a sample of children and young people between 2004 and 2007 and reviewed the factors likely to be associated with the onset or persistence of mental disorders. The report is downloadable from the ONS website.

An independent CAMHS Review, commissioned by Ministers, reported in November 2008 setting out 20 recommendations to improve children and young people's mental health and psychological wellbeing. The full Government response to the CAMHS Review is to be published soon.

Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the oral answer of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 135W, on Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust, and pursuant to the oral answer of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 386-87, on parking charges (offsetting), what steps he plans to take to ensure that the programme to bring Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust back into surplus is not undertaken at the expense of staff, with particular reference to the level of car parking charges paid by staff of that trust. [302388]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust. We are advised that the trust is forecasting a surplus for the 2009-10 financial year and it is working to phase out car parking charges for in-patients.

The Department's existing guidance will be reissued to ensure that all organisations providing services to national health service patients are clear about the expectations. Early next year, we will issue revised concession guidance and examples of best practice.

The Department works through the strategic health authorities to ensure that all the organisations forecasting an operating deficit are developing recovery plans to return to financial balance while maintaining and improving services to patients. All trusts must ensure that any profit generated from car parking is used to improve health services in the NHS trust.

MRSA: Screening

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's 2011 deadline for the screening of non-elective patients for MRSA; [302675]

(2) how many primary care trusts have started to screen non-elective patients for MRSA in advance of his Department's 2011 deadline for such screening. [302676]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of primary care trust commissioners of national health service services to put in place processes for assuring themselves that trusts are meeting this commitment.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to NHS hospital trusts on budget deficits and safeguarding services. [302509]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has made it clear in its guidance to the national health service that proposed changes to NHS services will always be to the benefit of patients and be locally led by clinicians and based on the best available clinical evidence.

In addition, the local NHS will involve patients, carers, the public and other key partners. Those affected by proposed changes will have the chance to have their say and offer their contribution. NHS organisations will work openly and collaboratively.

The Department works through the strategic health authorities to ensure that all the organisations forecasting an operating deficit are developing recovery plans to return to financial balance while maintaining and improving services to patients.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts had a (*a*) budget surplus, (*b*) budget deficit and (*c*) balanced budget in each of the last three years. [303582]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Figures taken from the published NHS (England) Summarised Accounts for 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07 show the following distribution of financial performance.

	Number of primary care trusts (PCTs) in surplus	*Number of PCTs in deficit*	*Number of PCTs with break-even position*
2008-09	151	1	0
2007-08	146	4	2
2006-07	109	42	1

Nurses: Women's Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses at each grade are employed in female prisons. [302329]

Ann Keen: This category of nursing is not identified separately in the National Health Service Workforce Census. The National Offenders Management Service, part of the Ministry of Justice, would hold such information.

Nursing: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with the National Union of Students on nursing degrees; and if he will make a statement; [302906]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with student bodies other than the National Union of Students on nursing degrees. [302912]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the National Union of Students on nursing degrees.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council, following wide consultation, announced in September 2008 the principle that there would be a future requirement that the minimum academic level to register as a nurse, for those who train in the United Kingdom, would be a nursing degree.

We strongly support this principle. Following a period of stakeholder engagement, including with the Royal College of Nursing and Unison who both have student nurse membership, we announced on 12 November 2009 that all new nurse pre-registration education programmes in England will become degree-level by 2013.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's press release of 31 July 2009, on the rules on organ transplants to NHS patients and non-UK EU residents, what his most recent assessment is of progress in the banning of private clinical practices in the UK from using solid organs from live donors *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the NHS. [302526]

Ann Keen: The Buggins report on the allocation of organs to non UK residents deals only with donations from deceased donors.

We continue to consider the implications for each of the recommendations in the report and have established an implementation group consisting of representatives from the transplant community, NHS blood and transplant, commissioners and others to consider each recommendation and to advise on implementation. The group has met on three occasions, most recently on 23 November. Good progress has been made in this complex area and officials hope to put implementation proposals to their respective Ministers shortly.

Sickle Cell Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance his Department provides to schools in respect of education on sickle cell anaemia. [302904]

Ann Keen: The main health contact for schools is likely to be a school nurse. The school health service can provide guidance on medical conditions, including sickle cell anaemia; help schools draw up individual health care plans for pupils with medical needs; supplement and augment information provided by parents and the child's general practitioner; and advise on training for school staff in administering medicines and in taking responsibility for other aspects of support.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on raising the level of public awareness of sickle cell disorders in each year since 1997. [302906]

Ann Keen: The Department has funded the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening programme to develop materials for public information (including information on screening, carrier status and a parents' handbook on children with sickle cell disease) and to undertake a number of public outreach projects in areas where there is a high proportion of black and minority ethnic populations who may have difficulties accessing health care services. For the four years, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the programme spent a total of more than £2 million. No figures before this are available.

In addition, the Department awarded the Sickle Cell Society a Section 64 grant of £20,000 over two years (2003-04 and 2004-05) for health education. A Third Sector Investment programme project grant of some £258,000 has recently been awarded to the Sickle Cell Society for three years (2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12) for a named National Support Care Advisor for sickle cell disorders.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on services for those with sickle cell anaemia in each year since 1997. [302907]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of sickle cell anaemia have been diagnosed in each year since 1997. [302910]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Skin Piercing: Young People

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which London boroughs have implemented rules prohibiting ear and body piercing for those under the age of 18 years without parental consent; [303052]

(2) what powers local authorities have in respect of the regulation of ear and body piercing for those under the age of 18 years without parental consent; and if he will make a statement. [303053]

Gillian Merron: Local authorities have no specific powers to regulate ear or body piercing of those under the age of 18 years. Ear and body piercing for cosmetic purposes are lawful and there is no statutory minimum age of consent. Minors are able to give valid consent if they are capable of understanding the nature of the act to be done.

Local authorities have powers, under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, to require that businesses offering ear or body piercing are registered with their local authority and observe local byelaws relating to the hygiene of premises, operators and equipment. Local authorities are also responsible for enforcing health and safety at work legislation for such businesses.

The Department does not hold the information requested on the implementation of the London Local Authorities Act 1991 by London local authorities.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust: Standards

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [302593]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the NHS Performance Framework there are four domains against which trusts are assessed: National Standards and Targets, Finance, Quality and Safety and User Experience. Overall, South London Healthcare NHS Trust has been assessed as 'Underperforming' for Quarter 1 of 2009-10. However, for the category National Standards and Targets, which covers key areas of service performance, it is assessed as 'Performing'.

Stress: Children

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* between five and seven, *(b)* between seven and 11, *(c)* between 11 and 14 years old have been seen by a medical professional owing to stress-related conditions in each month of the last three years. [303019]

Ann Keen: That information is not available.

Strokes: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of stroke services for residents in the London Borough of Bexley; and if he will make a statement. [302591]

Ann Keen: Information on local plans for stroke services is not collected centrally.

Surgery: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of elective surgery for residents in the London Borough of Bexley; and if he will make a statement. [302590]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches in *(a)* project and *(b)* personal licences occurred at Wickham Laboratories between 2003 and 2008; and if he will provide details in each case. [302812]

Meg Hillier: For security reasons it is not Home Office policy to disclose the compliance record of individual establishments licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Arrest Warrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants have been issued for arresting and bringing to the UK a suspect from each other EU country in each of the last five years. [301813]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: The figures for the number of EAWs issued by UK prosecuting authorities and transmitted by the Serious Organised Crime Agency is as follows:

	EAWs Issued	*Persons extradited to the UK under the EAW*
2004	96	19
2005	131	63
2006	126	76
2007	198	99
2008	218	96

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down into the number of EAWs issued by the UK to each member state. This would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Asylum

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on allowing asylum seekers to work if they have been waiting longer than six months for a full resolution of an asylum claim. [302157]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: It is not the Government's policy to allow asylum seekers to work. The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC Directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation was undert[illegible] in Wales as part of his Department's consultation on violence against women. [303260]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The cross-Government consultation Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls was co-ordinated by the Home Office. Officials at the Home Office liaised with key stakeholders from Wales including officials from the Welsh Assembly Government. Wales has its own domestic abuse strategy and will consider the way it responds to all forms of violence against women.

Criminal Records Bureau: Contracts

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the processing of Criminal Records Bureau checks was tendered to the private sector; when the contract with Capita for processing Criminal Records Bureau checks will next be reviewed; and what arrangements have been put in place to ensure that Capita processes such checks in a timely manner. [303637]

Meg Hillier: The Disclosure Service operates as a contract between the Criminal Records Bureau and Capita Business Services based upon a public-private partnership agreement. Under this agreement, Capita is required to perform contractually specified services and to develop, deliver and maintain the technical infrastructure of the Disclosure Service. A contract schedule sets out the service levels for Capita to meet. The current contract expires in 2012.

The decision to tender to the private sector was made following a detailed options analysis. Five options were initially assessed and these were then reduced to two—Contract Crown/private entity for design, build and operation of CRB against a traditional Crown agency. Assessments based on investment appraisal, financial risk, technical/operational risk, performance management, skills and capability and implementation time concluded that a public-private partnership (PPP) approach was the most beneficial option against these criteria.

Drugs

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many farms are licensed to grow opium; how many hectares each licence covers; and how many companies are licensed to harvest the crop. [303032]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A Home Office licence is not required to grow or harvest opium poppy (papaver somniferum). A licence is only required when the opium poppy is processed in any way.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* acquisitive and *(b)* sex work-related crime committed which was motivated by the need to raise money to purchase illegal drugs in the latest period for which figures are available. [303033]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not routinely estimate the proportion of acquisitive crime or sex work committed which was motivated by the need to raise money for illegal drugs. Drug use, offending, and sex work are often covert activities and the relationship between them can be complex, thus such estimates are likely to be subject to large uncertainties.

The Department has previously commissioned research that shows proportions of drug treatment seekers and police arrestees who have reportedly committed acquisitive crime in order to buy drugs:

Nearly a quarter (22 per cent.) of a nationally representative sample of drug treatment seekers reported offending in order to buy drugs in the four weeks before interview.

Source:

Home Office Research Report 3

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr03c.pdf

12 per cent. of a sample of arrestees said that they had committed crime in order to buy or get hold of drugs. This was much more likely among those who took heroin or crack cocaine once a week, 50 per cent. of whom had committed crime to get drugs compared to 4 per cent. of those who did not take heroin/crack weekly.

Source:

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf

There are a number of research studies that have shown that prostitution, especially street based prostitution, is linked to illegal drug misuse. A Home Office evaluation of five projects that aimed to provide support to help women involved in street prostitution to exit, indicated that around nine out of 10 women involved in street based prostitution used drugs, although the findings do not indicate whether the sex work was motivated by the desire to buy drugs.

Source:

Home Office Research Study 290

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors290.pdf

Immigration Controls

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1138W, on immigrations controls, how many sponsorship licences have been granted to *(a)* employers and *(b)* educational institutions since the inception of the points-based system. [302931]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The number of sponsor licences that have been granted to employers since the inception of the points-based system to 27 November 2009 is 13,475.

The number of sponsor licences that have been granted to educational institutions since the inception of the points-based system to 27 November 2009 is 3,065.

Figures for educational institutions are for those sponsors who have specified "Education" as the industry sector that best explains their organisation's main economic activity, irrespective of PBS tier.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Surveillance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the use of covert human intelligence sources by *(a)* police forces in England and Wales, *(b)* the Security Service, *(c)* the Secret Intelligence Service, *(d)* GCHQ, *(e)* the National Criminal Intelligence Service, *(f)* the National Crime Squad and *(g)* the Serious Fraud Office have been refused by his Department under section 29(7) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in each year since 2000. [302993]

Mr. Hanson: Applications for the use of covert human intelligence sources are not submitted to the Home Office. The authorities responsible for authorising the use of covert human intelligence sources under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA')—including the Serious Organised Crime Agency which replaced the National Criminal Intelligence Service and National Crime Squad in 2005—are listed in Schedule 1 to that Act as amended by statutory instruments 2003 No.3171, 2005 No. 1084 and 2006 No. 1874. The Home Office will shortly bring forward a new statutory instrument to consolidate these earlier instruments.

RIPA vests statutory oversight of such authorisations with the independent Office of Surveillance Commissioners and the Intelligence Services Commissioner. The Chief Surveillance Commissioner publishes annual reports on his findings, copies of which are in the House Library, but the figures provided in the reports relate only to applications granted. The figures are reproduced as follows:

Use of covert human intelligence sources authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
By law enforcement	1	5,400	5,900	5,907	4,980	4,559	4,373	4,498	4,278
By other authorities	1	1	1	273	308	437	429	204	234

[1] Not given

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many covert human intelligence sources have been recruited by *(a)* police forces in England and Wales, *(b)* the security services, *(c)* the National Criminal Intelligence Service and *(d)* the National Crime Squad in each year since 2000. [303142]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not collect such figures. RIPA vests statutory oversight of CHIS authorisations with the independent Office of Surveillance Commissioners and the Intelligence Services Commissioner. The Chief Surveillance Commissioner publishes annual reports on his findings, copies of which are in the House Library, which include statistics on the number of CHIS authorisations granted, but do not provide a breakdown of how many CHIS are recruited by each public authority. No such statistics are provided for the activities of the Security and Intelligence agencies.

Vetting: Waiting Lists

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for Criminal Record Bureau checks that were in progress on 30 September of each year since 2006 had been made *(a)* less than one month previously, *(b)* between one and three months previously, *(c)* between three and six months previously and *(d)* over six months previously. [303349]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 December 2009]:* Data are not held in the format requested. The following table provides the details of applications in progress for less than eight weeks, more than eight weeks and the total amount of outstanding applications on 30 September in the last four years.

	Checks outstanding for		
Month ending 30 September each year	*Less than eight weeks*	*More than eight weeks*	*Total outstanding*
2009	238,118	27,905	266,023
2008	220,714	53,904	274,618
2007	120,297	21,734	142,031
2006	176,450	36,680	213,130

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid: EU Institutions

10. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's aid funding distributed through EU institutions; and if he will make a statement. [303274]

Mr. Thomas: Analysis from the OECD's donor assistance committee, Oxfam, the House of Lords and our own staff indicate that the effectiveness of Commission aid has improved considerably.

Aid Projects: Gaza

11. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of Government funding available for humanitarian assistance to Gaza in the last three years has been disbursed to aid projects in that area. [303275]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development responded swiftly to the humanitarian crisis following Operation Cast Lead, pledging £26.8 million for immediate humanitarian aid and early recovery activities. Of this, £18.3 million has already been spent. Prior to the conflict, we had given the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) £3 million to meet immediate humanitarian needs in Gaza—£1 million in 2007 and £2 million in 2008.

Afghanistan

12. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's activities in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [303276]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's latest Afghanistan Country Programme Evaluation was published in May 2009.

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/Afghanistan/

South Waziristan

13. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to those displaced by recent violence in South Waziristan. [303277]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have made available £2 million to help meet immediate needs of those newly displaced by conflict in South Waziristan. Funds are being used by NGOs to support shelter, water, sanitation and medical services. This new funding commitment brings the UK contribution for the displaced in North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to £34 million. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and stand ready to provide further support.

HIV/AIDS

14. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to advance the Government's strategy for *(a)* halting and *(b)* reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS in middle-income countries. [303278]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) works with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in these countries, helping to ensure policies address inequality and challenge stigma and discrimination. Marginalised groups are often most affected.

The long-term costs of treatment place a huge burden on these countries. DFID and partners are helping to reduce prices and for the first time a second-line regimen is available for under $500 annually.

Sri Lanka

15. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for *International Development what recent assessment he* has made of the effectiveness of his Department's activities in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [303279]

Mr. Michael Foster: I visited Sri Lanka in October to see for myself the situation on the ground and the Department for International Development's (DFID's) contribution to the humanitarian efforts. Next year it is expected that an independent evaluation of all DFID's work in Sri Lanka will be undertaken.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303088]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 13 February 2003, *Official Report*, column 921W, which provided a list of contracts awarded to Capita Group plc. These contracts did not incur penalty charges and were not cancelled before completion. No further contracts have been awarded to Capita Group plc.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303163]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has no record of receiving tenders from Capita Group plc in the last five years.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303134]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) applies the European Union Public Procurement Directives determining the award of contracts. This requires the evaluation criteria to be specified in advertisements, and the award of business on the basis of most economically advantageous tender, taking account of technical and commercial aspects.

The cost of advertising tenders cannot be isolated from other advertising costs without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: *To ask the Secretary of* State for International Development how much his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses in 2009-10. [302778]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The salary budget for 2009-10 is £104 million of which non-consolidated performance payments represented an estimated 1.27 per cent.[1]

Awards are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other short term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives and values.

Awards are funding within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against the predetermined criteria above and as such do not add to future pay bill costs.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on pot plants in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [303102]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has not purchased any pot plants in either 2008 or 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302969]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Special advisers and press officers are located in the Department for International Development head office at 1 Palace street. It is not possible to disaggregate the cost.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302702]

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[1] Payments made are for the financial year indicated but relate to performance achieved in the previous reporting year.

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central record of mileage travelled by taxi or expenditure on taxi charges. Compiling this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Disabled

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps his Department is taking to include children with disabilities in the programme established to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on schooling; [302994]

(2) whether he expects the Millennium Development Goal on schooling to be achieved in circumstances in which specific provision to meet the needs of children with disabilities is not made in the programme of work towards achievement of that goal. [302995]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without addressing the specific needs and rights of people with disabilities. All children, including those with disabilities must have equal access to a good quality basic education. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of children with disabilities in developing countries are out of school.

The UK is spending £8.5 billion over the period 2006-07—2015-16 in support of education in developing countries. Alongside funding from other donors, these resources are used to support governments to ensure all children have access to basic education—including the children with disabilities. DFID is the second largest donor (£202 million) to the global financing partnership for education, the Education for All—Fast Track Initiative (FTI). We use our support to the FTI to leverage greater attention from partner governments to the needs of the most excluded children. DFID also directly supports Disability Partner Organisations (DPOs) in countries where we work to advocate for the rights for adults and children with disabilities. This is in recognition that social stigma and discrimination remain the main barriers for children with disabilities to attend school.

DFID's new education strategy will be launched early next year and will set out how we propose to implement our commitment to basic education for all children including those with disabilities.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302742]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central record of expenditure on vehicle clamping charges. Compiling this information would incur disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers currently assigned to uniformed response policing duties in each district command unit were so assigned immediately following an assignment to administrative duties observing normal office hours. [303264]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he (1) plans to introduce measures to block mobile phone signals in prisons and detention centres in Northern Ireland; [302943]

(2) has estimated the cost to the public purse of blocking mobile telephone signals in prison facilities in Northern Ireland. [302949]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is liaising closely with HMPS who are trialling signal blocking equipment in a number of establishments in Great Britain and working with the Home Office Scientific Development Branch and Ofcom to evaluate the technology available. While Ministers are determined to reduce the use of mobile phones in prisons, until the conclusions of the current evaluations and the identification of a preferred option, it is not possible to decide whether such technology will be installed in NIPS. It is also not possible to estimate the likely costs involved at this stage.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303497]

Tessa Jowell: In the last 12 months I have visited Scotland and Wales on one occasion each. I have not made an official visit to Northern Ireland during the last 12 months.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Government Olympic Executive has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303333]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive has not entered into contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries but the Olympic Delivery Authority has procured transport services from Kellogg, Brown and Root since January 2009 under the terms of a framework agreement.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many tenders have been submitted for Olympic contracts from firms based in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* England and *(e)* other countries. [302560]

Tessa Jowell: I have referred this question to the Olympic Delivery Authority. I will write to the hon. Member when I have received a reply, and I will place a copy of my reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

PRIME MINISTER

Angad Paul

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and his predecessor and *(b)* officials in the Prime Minister's Office have had meetings with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [303112]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303491]

The Prime Minister: For information for 2008-09 I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 76WS. A list of my UK visits for 2009-10 will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Office have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year; [302705]

(2) on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302719]

The Prime Minister: This information is not held in the format requested. Ministers, my officials and I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers".

Meetings: Oil Companies

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessor and *(c)* officials of the Prime Minister's Office met executives of BP plc in each year since 2002; [301574]

(2) on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessor and *(c)* officials of the Prime Minister's Office have met Royal Dutch Shell executives in each year since 2002. [301577]

The Prime Minister: My predecessor and I, and officials in my office, have regular meetings with a wide range of individuals and organisations.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister which special advisers have visited Chequers since 2006; and on what dates. [302579]

The Prime Minister: A list of guests who have received official hospitality at Chequers is published on an annual basis and is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2009-10 will be published in the usual way.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302966]

Ann McKechin: A breakdown of the cost of office facilities is not available in the form requested.

Departmental Security

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303954]

Ann McKechin: One security pass was issued to a contractor providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. The pass was returned at the end of the contract.

TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many automatic number plate recognition cameras are in operation other than on the public highway; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* purpose is of each. [303440]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras permanently located in off road locations.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's wheel lamping contractors, NSL Services Ltd, uses a fleet of 35 mobile wheel clamping units equipped with ANPR technology to help detect unlicensed vehicles. These units operate on and off the public road.

Cars: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of cars sold in the UK had carbon dioxide emissions levels of 100 grammes per kilometre or less in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2009 to date. [303525]

Mr. Khan: Data on carbon dioxide emissions per km (gCO_2/km) from new cars sold in the UK are only available up to the year 2008. These data are published on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing

A total of 3,592 cars with CO_2 emissions under $100gCO_2/km$ were sold from 2004-08. By year this breaks down as follows:

	Number of new cars sold with CO_2 emissions of <100g/km	*Number as percentage of total new car sales*
2004	20	0.001
2005	16	0.001
2006	9	<0.001
2007	52	0.002
2008	3,495	0.17

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301495]

Chris Mole: There have been fewer than five allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing reported by departmental staff since 6 June 2006.

Where figures are fewer than five, it is the Department for Transport's policy to withhold details on grounds of individual confidentiality.

Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the standards and core values set out in the Civil Service Code. The Civil Service Code also provides for civil servants to raise matters of concern with the independent Civil Service Commissioners if they do not receive what they consider to be a reasonable response following departmental internal procedures. The Commissioners will also consider taking a complaint direct. Further guidance on whistleblowing is set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Directory of Civil Service Guidance.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303493]

Chris Mole: The Minister of State has visited Wales once in his official capacity in the last 12 months, as part of the Regional Cabinet in Cardiff. His predecessor also visited Scotland. There have been no visits to Northern Ireland during the same period. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to his Department was of the provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302965]

Chris Mo[illegible] The requested information is not recorded in the format requested.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302423]

Chris Mole: Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing operating/maintenance costs for 2008-09 and forecast operating/maintenance costs for the Department for Transport websites for 2009-10.

Where annual operating/maintenance costs are not available this is due to a number of reasons; either the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs. Costs provided do not include staff costs.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301161]

Chris Mole: In its response to a Report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish online, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301182]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS about the contracted cost of ministerial cars in 2008-09. The cost of providing official cars for senior officials for the same period is as follows:

Department	*2008-09 charge (£)*
BERR	71,600
Cabinet Office	132,000
DECC	34,600
DCSF	69,300
DFID	67,300
DFT	71,400
DWP	26,100
Health	144,000
Home Office	65,900
HMIC	128,000
HMT	67,100
OS&T	66,900

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301534]

Chris Mole: One of the Agencies within the Department for Transport uses online only job applications in its external recruitment processes. 27 per cent. of the jobs advertised externally by the Department in the last 12 months were online only applications.

The Department includes telephone contact details in job adverts and application packs can be issued in alternative formats for anyone who does not have access to the internet. Applicants who may have difficulty in applying for jobs online can also be helped to identify where they can access the internet e.g. libraries or internet cafes. Alternatively they can provide paper applications on request.

Electric Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on electric car charging points in the last five years. [302857]

Mr. Khan: On 19 November 2009 the Secretary of State for Transport launched the Plugged in Places scheme which is making available up to £30 million to support a small number of lead cities and regions in rolling out electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Bids for this funding are due to be received next year.

In addition, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Programme (AFIGP) launched in 2005 has to date delivered 82 charging points with Government support totalling £172,347. On 19 November 2009, the Department for Transport announced the next tranche of funding through this programme and that a further 72 charge points are due for completion by spring 2010 with Government support of £228,500.

London Airports

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 49W, if he will publish the submission to the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) setting out *(a)* the (i) reasons and (ii) justifications for not providing the information requested in question 298409 and *(b)* the estimated cost of providing the information requested, as required in accordance with section 7.28 of the Cabinet Office's Guide to Parliamentary Work. [302859]

Paul Clark: The request in question 298409 was about representations received from hon. and right hon. Members of each party in favour of *(a)* a third runway at Heathrow airport, *(b)* a second runway at Gatwick airport, *(c)* further expansion of Stansted airport and *(d)* a new airport in the Thames estuary. No time period was specified. As my 9 November answer explained, no such records are held centrally. To seek to obtain the information would therefore require an exhaustive search of both electronic and paper records across the Department for Transport at least as far back as 2002 when options for airport development were consulted upon. Such an exercise would well exceed the £750 threshold in Cabinet Office guidance for written questions.

Lorries

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of miles heavy goods vehicles over 12 tonnes registered in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas travelled on roads in the UK in each year since 1997. [302813]

Paul Clark: The table shows the estimated distance travelled in the UK by UK-registered heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) weighing over 12 tonnes. Figures for foreign-registered HGVs are not available.

	Billion miles travelled
2008	11.1
2007	11.7
2006	11.5
2005	11.2
2004	11.1
2003	11.2
2002	11.1
2001	11.0
2000	11.3
1999	11.5
1998	11.5
1997	11.4

Note:
Data for 2004 onwards are not fully comparable with earlier years
Source:
DFT, Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport

Lorries: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles were recorded on UK roads in each of the last 10 years. [302814]

Paul Clark: Data concerning whether vehicles involved in personal injury road accidents are foreign registered have only been collected from 2005. The table shows the number of personal injury road accidents since 2005 involving known foreign registered HGVs and HGVs recorded as not foreign registered:

Reported personal injury accidents involving heavy goods vehicles: GB 2005-08

	Accidents involving foreign registered HGVs	*Accidents involving HGVs not registered as foreign*[1]	*All HGV accidents*[2]
2005	1,098	9,835	11,162
2006	1,047	9,342	10,466
2007	919	8,995	9,829
2008	836	7,644	8,415

[1] Includes some cases where at the time of reporting it was not known whether an HGV was foreign registered.

[2] Includes cases where it is not recorded whether HGV is foreign registered. Accidents can include both foreign registered HGVs and HGVs not registered as foreign so the total may be smaller than the sum of other two figures.

M1: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to implement a temporary speed limit reduction on *(a)* the M1 motorway between junctions 30 and 31 and *(b)* on the M18 motorway between junction 1 and the junction with the M1 motorway; and if he will make a statement. [303438]

Chris Mole: The information is as follows:

(a) The M1 junction 30-31 scheme is to strengthen the hardshoulders of both northbound and southbound carriageways. The work started 30 November and is scheduled for completion in early January 2010. The work is being undertaken with overnight hardshoulder and Lane 1 closures without the need for speed reduction.

(b) There are no schemes planned between junction 1 of the M18 and junction 32 of the M1. However, the Highways Agency will be carrying out hardshoulder strengthening works on the northbound and southbound carriageways of the M1 between junction 32 and junction 33. This work is programmed to commence in February 2010 for three weeks and will be undertaken with overnight hardshoulder and Lane 1 closures without the need for speed reduction.

Manchester Airport: Railways

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the passenger data taken into account in determining the frequency of direct rail services to and from Manchester Airport. [302043]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 26 November 2009]:* For English rail franchises the Department for Transport defines a minimum train service, which is reviewed in the light of present and forecast demand when franchises are replaced.

In accordance with the requirements of their franchise agreements, train operating companies collect passenger counts data in order to assess demand and to monitor the rail services serving Manchester airport station. These data are commercially confidential and are owned by the respective train operating companies. The Department for Transport currently holds only partial passenger counts information for rail services serving Manchester airport station.

Motorways: Noise

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department has compiled on the difference measured in decibels between the typical noise created by a concrete motorway surface and a low-noise tarmac surface. [302758]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Typical noise levels created from either in-service concrete or low-noise surfaces cannot be readily defined. Noise levels created by individual surfaces, even for the same surfacing material type, can vary widely as they are influenced by factors such as age of the surface and its texture depth wear.

Whenever major maintenance is carried out on the strategic road network in England, a low noise surfacing is specified. The Highways Agency specification requires low noise surfacing materials to be at least 2.5dB(A) quieter than traditional hot rolled asphalt surfaces.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate the Highways Agency has made of the cost per mile of resurfacing concrete motorways with low noise tarmac surfaces. [302366]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The estimated cost per mile of resurfacing each lane of concrete pavement on a motorway using quieter surfacing materials ranges between £200,000 and £1,900,000 at today's prices. Accurate cost estimates can only be obtained once a scheme's detailed design has been undertaken, as this will depend on the type of treatment required and associated site specific requirements. The higher costs would only be incurred where roads constructed to old design standards (i.e. before 1987) were resurfaced, so these are becoming increasingly rare.

Norwich-London Railway Line

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average age of rolling stock used on the Norwich to London railway line was during *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* to date in 2009. [302203]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested in relation to the average age of rolling stock used on the Norwich to London railway line.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions trains between Norwich and London Liverpool Street were more than *(a)* 15 minutes, *(b)* 30 minutes and *(c)* one hour late in arriving at their final destination in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2009 to date. [302433]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold information on train delays for the Norwich and London Liverpool Street route. Network Rail is responsible for train running data for the rail industry. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for such information:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Ports: Milford Haven

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to lay before the House a Harbour Revision Order relating to the Port of Milford Haven. [303311]

Paul Clark: In common with other major trust ports the Milford Haven port authority have been asked to report to the Government by April 2010 on their review of their corporate structure. In these circumstances it would be premature to determine the earlier Harbour Revision Order designed to alter the constitution of the Authority.

Railways: Bridges

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure the structural integrity of railway bridges in England. [302803]

Chris Mole: The structural integrity of railway bridges in England is an operational matter for Network Rail as owner and operator of the national network, and the company has its own teams of structures engineers.

The funding and efficiency of the maintenance and renewal activity by Network Rail on its own bridges is determined and monitored by the independent Office of Rail Regulation as part of its determination of the company's outputs and funding for each five-year control period.

Network Rail-owned bridges over railways most commonly carry local authority roads. In England, under the Railway Bridges (Load Bearing Standards) Regulations (England and Wales) Order 1972 (SI 1705/1972), they are statutorily required to be able to carry 24 imperial tons. They are covered by a national programme of assessment and works and a national cost sharing agreement with local authorities relating to the costs of assessment and strengthening.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* fastest, *(b)* average and *(c)* slowest journey times between (i) London and Edinburgh, (ii) Edinburgh and Aberdeen and (iii) London and Aberdeen following the introduction of the new Intercity Express trains; and if he will provide the same information in respect of existing journey times. [301247]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 24 November 2009]:* The introduction of Super Express Trains would see a more standardised pattern of train services throughout the day, not just the occasional headline train on routes as is the case today, resulting in less variance in the fastest/slowest/average journey times.

All future journey times remain indicative until the timetable has been finalised which will be a result of the forthcoming East Coast franchise specification process.

Current journey times

Journey times	*Fastest*	*Slowest*	*Average*
London (Kings Cross)-Edinburgh	04:13	04:56	04:31
Edinburgh-Aberdeen	02:35	02:42	02:38
London-Aberdeen	07:07	07:12	07:08

Indicative future Super Express journey times

Journey times	*Fastest*	*Slowest*	*Average*
London-Edinburgh	04:06	04:32	04:12
Edinburgh-Aberdeen	02:27	02:27	02:27
London-Aberdeen	06:37	06:53	06:41

Thameslink Railway Line: Industrial Disputes

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the outcomes are of his Department's monitoring of the effects on train services of First Capital Connect train drivers choosing to work only their contracted hours; what assessment he has made of the effects of such action on routes other than the Bedford to Brighton route; how many other routes have been affected to date; what steps he is taking to resolve the situation; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which First Capital Connect can deliver on its franchise requirements while such action persists. [303263]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 1 December 2009]:* Officials at the Department for Transport are ensuring that the amended timetables that First Capital Connect is operating look to protect the first and last services of the day for all First Capital Connect routes; provide a balanced service during the day; and provide replacement bus services where appropriate. First Capital Connect is obliged to reinstate trains when resources are available and this is happening when possible.

No assessment has been made of the effects of the action on other routes, but there is a notable increase in passengers using First Capital Connect services on the Great Northern route during peak periods. In addition, First Capital Connect has arranged for its tickets to be valid on Southern services between Brighton, Sutton, Wimbledon and intermediate stations to Victoria, as well as on Stagecoach South West Trains services between Wimbledon and Waterloo.

First Capital Connect Thameslink tickets can also be used on the Tramlink services and on London underground and buses on all reasonable routes. Further, on the Great Northern route, First Capital Connect will when necessary arrange for their passengers to be able to use the East Coast services between Peterborough and London.

First Capital Connect is in negotiation with the unions to resolve this matter and all parties are urged to resolve this unacceptable situation.

The Department for Transport is monitoring First Capital Connect's ability to deliver their franchise requirements in accordance with their contractual commitments and we will take appropriate action to ensure compliance.

Train Operating Companies: Complaints

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the complaints received by each railway operator about its services in each of the last 10 years. [3021[illegible]6]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport collects statistics from each train operating company on the complaints it receives about its services. These are then passed to the Office of Rail Regulation for publication in National Rail Trends. These figures are available from the financial year 2002-03. National Rail Trends is available in the Libraries of the House or on the Office of Rail Regulation's website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Trust Ports

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when an assessment was last made of the monetary value of the assets of Trust Ports. [303312]

Paul Clark: No assessment of the monetary value of the assets of the Trust Ports has been undertaken by the Government.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he next plans to assess the monetary value of assets of Trust Ports. [303313]

Paul Clark: I have no plans to assess the monetary value of assets of Trust Ports.

WALES

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302407]

Mr. Hain: The cost of hosting and maintaining the Wales Office website in 2008-09 was £6,054.55, the forecast spend on this for the current financial year is £7,976. The costs in 2008-09 were lower as the first three months had been paid on set up of the new website in January 2008.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [303766]

Mr. Hain: Wales Office press officers are appointed to work in both London and Cardiff offices, and elsewhere with Ministers, as required. They will be reimbursed for travelling and subsistence expenses incurred in their duties. The sums paid in each of the last two years were:

	£
2006-07	1,931.44
2007-08	3,481.51

Additionally, depending where they are based on appointment, their terms and conditions may include civil service detached duty allowances to reflect costs incurred in living away from home.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will provide a breakdown by category of the annually managed expenditure of his Department's budget for 2009. [302522]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have annually managed expenditure, its budget is purely resource DEL (Departmental Expenditure Limit).

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302714]

Mr. Hain: The information is as follows:

(a) and *(b)* This information is not held centrally.

My Department has spent the following amounts on taxis:

	£
2002-03	3,266
2003-04	1,154
2004-05	625
2005-06	2,321
2006-07	2,194
2007-08	3,424.16
2008-09	5,505.10

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Office at public expense in each of the last three years. [302947]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in June 2007. Information prior to this date can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Since June 2007 Ministers in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons have taken up training courses provided by the National School of Government and Sara Jones Associates Ltd. No training sessions have been attended by special advisers in the Leader of the House of Commons Office since June 2007.

Training is provided to Ministers and Special Advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the Ministerial Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/MinisterialProgramme/Table.asp

Members: Allowances

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Leader of the House how much Sir Thomas Legg's work on hon. Members' expenses is expected to cost. [302637]

Barbara Keeley: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1630W:

> "The review is expected to cost approximately £1.1 million."

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Theft: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will request the Director of Public Prosecutions to review the policy of the Crown Prosecution Service on prosecutions for offences of theft from shops. [302132]

The Solicitor-General: There is no discrete CPS policy on prosecutions for shop theft. Decisions on whether to prosecute a person for offences of theft from a shop, in common with all decisions on prosecution, are made in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors which provides general principles to be applied when balancing public interest factors for and against prosecution.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors is currently under review and is the subject of a public consultation exercise which closes on 11 January 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average it took an 18 to 24 year-old on jobseeker's allowance to get a full-time paid job in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [301751]

Ms Butler: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how long on average it took an 18 to 24 year old on job seeker's allowance to get a full-time paid job in *(a)* the UK *(b)* England and *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. (301751)

The Office for National Statistics publishes the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Although some information is available on whether people leaving JSA did so because they found work, this information does not distinguish part time and full time work, and as its collection is voluntary it does not have sufficient coverage to be reliable.

Housing Benefit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each tenure group were in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in May (i) 2001, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2009; and what the annualised cost was of each benefit at those dates. [303388]

Helen Goodman: Information on council tax benefit is not available broken down by tenure type. The available information is in the following tables.

Number of housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients in Great Britain by tenure: May 2001 and May 2005

	Housing benefit (HB)				*Council tax benefit*
	Total HB	*Social rented*	*Private rented*	*Other*	*All council tax benefit*
2001	3,874,400	3,131,140	743,260	—	4,673,370
2005	3,956,820	3,165,890	790,930	—	4,999,690

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing Benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
5. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude Second Adult Rebates.
6. — represents nil or negligible.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System quarterly 100 per cent. and taken in May 2001 and May 2005.

Number of housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients in Great Britain by tenure: May 2009

	Total HB	*Social rented*	*Private rented*	*Other*	*Council tax benefit*
2009	4,412,990	3,186,400	1,221,420	5,170	5,444,060

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing Benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
5. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude Second Adult Rebates.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) taken in May 2009.

Expenditure on housing benefit by tenancy type, and council tax benefit, cash terms

£ millions

	2001-02	*2005-06*	*2009-10 forecast*
Local authority	5,282	5,263	5,816
Registered social landlord	3,486	4,959	7,588
Private renter	2,827	3,723	6,248
Total housing benefit	11,596	13,945	19,652
Council tax benefit	2,666	3,774	4,648

Expenditure on housing benefit, split by tenancy type, and council tax benefit real terms, 2009-10 prices

£ millions

	2001-02	*2005-06*	*2009-10 forecast*
Local authority	6,424	5,753	5,816
Registered social landlord	4,230	5,421	7,588
Private renter	3,438	4,070	6,248
Total housing benefit	14,101	15,245	19,652
Council tax benefit	3,266	4,126	4,648

Notes:
1. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit expenditure are only available for full financial years.
2. Figures for 2009-10 are Budget 2009 forecasts.
3. Figures include all expenditure, whether funded by central or local government. Housing Benefit expenditure includes Discretionary Housing Payments.
4. Updated forecasts, and actual expenditure for 2008-09 will be published following the 2009 pre-Budget report.
5. Real terms figures are in 2009-10 prices, and derived using the Budget 2009 GDP deflator.
6. Historic and forecast expenditure for housing benefit and council tax benefit can be found on the internet at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp
Source:
Local Authority Subsidy returns and Budget 2009 forecasts.

Housing Benefit: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in the *(a)* owner occupation, *(b)* social rented and *(c)* private rented accommodation sector in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne were in receipt of (i) housing benefit and (ii) council tax benefit in May (A) 2001, (B) 2005 and (C) 2009. [303426]

Helen Goodman: Housing benefit is not paid to owner-occupiers. Council tax benefit information is not available by tenure type.

The available information is in the following tables.

Number of housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients in Newcastle upon Tyne by tenure: May 2001 and May 2005

	Housing benefit (HB)				*Council tax benefit*
	All HB	*Social rented*	*Private rented*	*Other*	*All council tax benefit*
May 2001	32,360	27,020	5,340		35,380
May 2005	29,090	24,670	4,420		33,020

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Housing Benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
4. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude Second Adult Rebates.
5. represents nil or negligible.
6. 'Owner/Occupier' tenure type is not available from the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System data source.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System quarterly 100 per cent. taken in May 2001 and May 2005.

Number of housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients in Newcastle upon Tyne by tenure: May 2001 and May 2005

	Housing benefit (HB)				*Council tax benefit*
	All HB	*Social rented*	*Private rented*	*Other*	*All council tax benefit*
May 2009	29,990	25,040	4,940	10	33,600

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. Housing Benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
6. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude Second Adult Rebates.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) taken in May 2009.

Job Vacancies

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies for *(a)* all jobs, *(b)* jobs of less than 16 hours a week and *(c)* jobs of 16 to 30 hours a week there were in each region and country of the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [302455]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many vacancies for (a) all jobs (b) jobs of less than 16 hours a week and (c) jobs of 16 to 30 hours a week there were in each region and country of the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. (302455)

The Office for National Statistics measures the number of vacancies in the UK using the ONS Vacancy Survey. There were an estimated 428,000 vacancies in the UK in the period August to October 2009 (seasonally adjusted). Estimates of the number of vacancies in regions and countries of the UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of data is the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and so is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the ONS Vacancy Survey, which covers a wider range of vacancies. However, geographical breakdowns of Jobcentre Plus data are available, apart from Northern Ireland.

Neither the ONS Vacancy Survey nor the Jobcentre Plus administrative data give details of whether vacancies are for less than 16 hours a week or between 16 and 30 hours a week. However, the Jobcentre Plus administrative data does give a split between full-time jobs, defined as 30 or more hours a week, and part-time jobs, defined as less than 30 hours a week.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of live unfilled job vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus for each English region, Scotland, Wales and Great Britain for October 2009. The table also shows the number of live unfilled vacancies that are for full-time and for part-time jobs.

Table 1: Number of full-time and part-time[2] job vacancies[1] in English regions, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain

Not seasonally adjusted

	October 2009		
	Total vacancies	*Full-time*	*Part-Time*
North East	10,590	6,920	3,670
North West	35,925	25,322	10,603
Yorkshire and the Humber	23,456	15,818	7,638
East Midlands	28,058	21,500	6,558
West Midlands	27,436	20,101	7,335
East	24,451	16,266	8,185
London	25,695	19,243	6,452
South East	35,731	24,983	10,748
South West	26,293	16,883	9,410
Wales	13,736	9,409	4,327

Table 1: Number of full-time and part-time[1] job vacancies[2] in English regions, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain

Not seasonally adjusted

October 2009

	Total vacancies	*Full-time*	*Part-Time*
Scotland	19,335	12,006	7,329
Great Britain	270,706	188,451	82,255

[1] Full-time vacancies are for jobs involving 30 or more hours per week, part-time vacancies are for jobs involving less than 30 hours per week.

[2] Job vacancies for English regions, Scotland, Wales and Great Britain are live unfilled vacancies from Jobcentre Plus administrative data. These are inconsistent with UK figures from the ONS Vacancy Survey, which covers a wider range of vacancies.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative data

Unemployment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those classified as economically inactive were *(a)* students and *(b)* on long-tern sickness leave in each of the last 10 years. [302153]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many of those classified as economically inactive were *(a)* students and *(b)* on long-term sickness leave in each of the last 10 years. (302153)

Estimates of economic inactivity are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically inactive if they are neither in employment nor unemployed. All people on sickness leave are classified as in employment and are therefore not economically inactive. The table provided contains estimates of the number of economically inactive people who report that their main reason for being inactive is that they are a student and also those inactive people who report that they have a long-term sickness or disability.

Estimates of the reasons for inactivity are not available for all people aged 16 and over. Therefore the estimates provided are for working age people only, consistent with the LFS aggregates published in Table 13 of the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin. The historical figures in Table 13 are published in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin Historical Supplement which is available on the National Statistics website via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Economically inactive people[1] of working age[2], by main reason for inactivity—three month periods ending September, 1999 to 2009, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Student	*Long-term sickness or disability*
1999	1,423	2,174
2000	1,443	2,152
2001	1,528	2,213
2002	1,561	2,172
2003	1,677	2,122
2004	1,790	2,156
2005	1,803	2,109
2006	1,819	2,044
2007	1,930	2,017
2008	1,991	2,050
2009	2,301	2,011

[1] Economically inactive people are neither in employment nor unemployed.

[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59

Note:

The above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations: Energy

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to include heating system water treatment cleaners and inhibitors in the UK implementation of energy performance standards for technical building systems under the EU Energy Performance of Building Directive. [302113]

Mr. Ian Austin: Articles 3 to 6 of the EPBD that cover requirements for the energy efficiency of buildings have been implemented through part L of the building regulations—conservation of fuel and power.

Building regulations guidance calls for the application of water treatment when heating systems are installed in new and existing dwellings. There are no proposals to extend the guidance to non-domestic buildings, although we will consider any requests to do so as part of the analysis of the responses to the recent building regulations part 2010 consultation.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to amend the Building Regulations to *(a)* encourage a reduction in energy consumption through the application of heating system water treatment cleaners and inhibitors and *(b)* make the application of heating system water treatment cleaners and inhibitors a mandatory element of the Regulations. [302114]

Mr. Ian Austin: Building regulations guidance already calls for the application of water treatment cleaners and inhibitors when heating systems are installed in new and existing dwellings. There are no proposals to extend the guidance to non-domestic buildings, although we will consider any requests to do so as part of the analysis of the responses to the recent building regulations part L 2010 consultation. A summary of the responses will be published on the Department's website in due course.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc holds with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303152]

Barbara Follett: No commercial contracts have been let with Capita Group plc in the last five years. Details of individual tenders could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Common Land: Rochdale

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of land in Rochdale constituency is common land. [illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: Registers of common land are held by local authorities. However, data gathered from the registers by the Countryside Agency in 2001 show that, at that time, 24.5 per cent. of land in the Rochdale parliamentary constituency was registered common land.

Community Relations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the potential effects on community cohesion of trends in the level of geographical mobility. [302032]

Mr. Malik: The Department has made a comprehensive assessment of the drivers of community cohesion at the local level, which includes consideration of the impact of mobility. For detail of this analysis please see James Laurence and Anthony Heath (2008) "Predictors of Community Cohesion: Multi-Level Modelling of the 2005 Citizenship Survey, Communities and Local Government".

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/predictorscohesion

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will amend the affordability criteria issued by the Homes and Communities Agency in its consideration of applications for social housing grant to provide that borrowing by local authorities is treated in the same way as that by registered social landlords. [302876]

John Healey: The premise of our current local authority funding programme is that new social housing building by councils on land they already own should represent value for money.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of introducing a floor mechanism in his proposed reform of council housing finance to provide that no local authority will lose from the change. [302877]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our proposals for reforming the council housing finance system include increases in the assumed need to spend on management, maintenance and major repairs which would put councils in a better financial position than under a continuation of the current system.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300196]

Barbara Follett: No asset disposals are planned by the Department in either 2009-10 or 2010-11, the last years of the current spending review period. The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many external consultants work for his Department. [303231]

Barbara Follett: The Department does record expenditure by category in its financial system but the details of the number of individuals employed under consultancy contracts are not kept centrally and therefore could only be established after an extensive consultation exercise with the business units that commissioned them. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302412]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 234-35W.

Regarding costs for 2009-10, the annual running costs for this technology platform are fixed and we are contractually committed to all elements of the budget.

In line with the Public Accounts Committee recommendation and Central Office of Information guidance for Government Departments, we will supply cost data for the financial year 2009-10 in April 2010.

Fire Service College: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Fire Service College has made to Four Communications in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302219]

Mr. Malik: The Fire Service College has paid £12,044.36 including VAT to Four Communications in the last 12-months to provide specialist communications advice.

Payments have been made under the College's standard purchase terms and conditions, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Fire Services: Floods

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency funding are available to fire and rescue services for the provision of *(a)* rescue and flood response services, *(b)* equipment and *(c)* staff training in respect of flooding. [303019]

Mr. Malik: At the national level, the Department has provided the fire and rescue service with 46 high volume pumps and funding for training. The high volume pumps have been used to great effect during floods.

At the local level, fire and rescue authorities are able to use their local discretion in equipping themselves with the appropriate capabilities to meet the risks, such as flooding, identified through their local risk assessment processes, using the flexible funding arrangements of the revenue support grant.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has made up to £2 million available to March 2011 to carry out the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project, which aims to enhance current flood rescue capability. A strategy for how this money will be best used is being developed, and organisations, including the fire and rescue service, could potentially receive some future funding.

Fire Services: Warwickshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had following the firefighter fatalities at Atherstone on Stour in November 2007 with *(a)* Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, *(b)* the Warwickshire Fire Authority, *(c)* HM Government Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor and *(d)* the Health and Safety Executive on the improvement notice served on Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service in January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [303176]

Mr. Malik: No recent discussions have taken place following the firefighter fatalities at Atherstone on Stour in November 2007. There is an ongoing police and Health and Safety Executive investigation into the incident and it would therefore be inappropriate to make a statement at this time.

Fires: Death

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average age was of those killed in domestic fires in each Fire and Rescue Authority area in each year since 2000. [303375]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Average age of fatalities in dwelling fires by FRS area, England, 2000-08[1]

FRS area	*2000-08*[1]	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
England	54.6	55.1	53.8	52.7	51.5	53.0	52.8	57.3	57.8	58.7
Avon	54.2	49.8	44.5	60.5	60.2	54.3	50.0	73.7	60.3	48.0
Bedfordshire	52.5	62.0	40.3	55.3	50.2	55.0	78.0	53.3		38.0
Berkshire	54.6	50.9	65.8	[illegible]	44.7	66.0	84.0	67.5	57.0	53.3
Buckinghamshire	61.3	67.3	61.7	54.0	45.5	59.0	87.5	68.0	55.0	74.0
Cambridgeshire	54.8	60.7	24.5	11.0	50.5	67.7	63.5	37.0	80.5	57.0
Cheshire	58.9	76.8	74.4	38.2	45.3	76.0	52.9	50.8	60.4	60.4
Cleveland	38.6	54.0	41.8	30.5	28.1	22.5	30.5	45.5	72.0	63.5
Cornwall	69.0	78.5	53.0	69.3	59.3	71.7	69.5		86.5	79.0
Cumbria	66.1	83.3	67.8	79.0	65.0	63.3	86.0	30.0	63.4	65.2
Derbyshire	43.5	34.3	43.4	47.5	37.5	66.4	47.5	20.0	49.5	41.7
Devon and Somerset	52.1	63.0	51.5	45.7	54.2	61.7	55.3	55.1	48.7	32.5
Dorset	58.2	65.0	70.6	30.2	58.0	36.3	82.0	85.0	39.0	70.9
Durham	54.6	53.0	28.3	54.7	67.9	68.7	53.3	46.8		61.0
East Sussex	58.8	63.7	58.3	69.3	33.7	67.5	51.0	84.0	64.5	42.6
Essex	61.6	35.1	74.2	78.9	51.0	57.0	63.6	80.1	62.6	65.8
Gloucestershire	59.3	75.0	87.0	30.5	49.4	77.0	59.0	67.5	57.8	[illegible]
Greater London	55.7	58.2	50.8	59.6	52.5	55.6	49.7	67.9	59.8	[illegible]
Greater Manchester	51.2	56.0	60.2	51.5	45.8	54.0	43.1	47.3	53.6	54.9
Hampshire	56.9	70.4	51.3	60.8	48.4	60.6	56.7	53.0	54.0	54.2

Average age of fatalities in dwelling fires by FRS area, England, 2000-08[3]

FRS area	*2000-08*[3]	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*[2]	*2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Hereford and Worcester	69.7	59.0	79.0	82.3	69.0	53.5	71.5	57.3	78.7	50.0
Hertfordshire	61.3	[illegible]5.8	78.6	61.4	0.0		43.8	84.5	50.0	58.0
Humberside	44.8	58.4	61.9	37.4	17.3	29.9	36.3	79.0	57.7	60.5
Isle of Wight	56.0						55.0	89.0	24.0	
Isles of Scilly										
Kent	49.9	60.4	46.8	55.9	48.7	56.4	42.6	33.8	43.3	60.2
Lancashire	49.7	33.5	53.1	43.5	52.2	52.1	59.8	47.7	62.7	70.4
Leicestershire	52.8	70.0	57.8	56.4	66.3	33.1	67.3	42.8	58.3	61.2
Lincolnshire	54.4	69.0	66.0	49.8	47.5	45.8	27.5	57.8	62.8	50.0
Merseyside	58.5	52.6	62.1	57.2	64.1	58.5	50.4	70.0	65.9	61.4
Norfolk	62.7	61.6	53.0	79.5	74.3	46.5	59.8	57.0	69.7	74.5
North Yorkshire	59.7	59.0	52.3	78.4	48.6	66.0	54.0	47.0		81.0
Northamptonshire	55.4	61.0	45.3	42.3	58.0	22.0	41.3	67.4	62.3	77.0
Northumberland	51.5	78.0	28.2		58.7		65.0	76.0	58.0	62.0
Nottinghamshire	56.8	65.0	51.3	48.3	48.0	65.2	53.8	55.4	64.0	76.0
Oxfordshire	59.2	24.0	64.7	54.2	55.0	71.5	80.5	60.0	51.7	73.0
Shropshire	51.9	37.1	60.0	56.8	78.0	50.0	68.5	33.8	90.0	67.6
South Yorkshire	54.0	55.7	37.7	57.0	45.1	67.3	61.8	56.3	57.0	61.9
Staffordshire	51.7	42.5	51.4	56.4	57.7	43.8	35.3	46.4	65.4	68.0
Suffolk	55.5	45.3	41.6	56.8	61.5	73.0	22.0	75.8	65.0	59.0
Surrey	61.9	57.1	20.0	52.0	72.0	64.0	74.0	79.8	58.3	58.5
Tyne and Wear	60.5	64.0	66.4	72.8	63.1	73.8	39.2	65.6	45.1	67.2
Warwickshire	56.6	72.2	42.2	0.0	49.0	72.5	53.7			54.3
West Midlands	54.5	58.2	56.3	44.8	52.0	41.5	62.5	55.0	57.2	59.7
West Sussex	59.8	59.3	79.0	62.8	67.3	48.8	80.0	63.5	54.5	88.0
West Yorkshire	46.9	48.5	54.8	29.4	51.0	40.9	40.1	54.6	51.4	54.8
Wiltshire	54.9		41.3	88.5	61.0	47.0		53.5	39.0	55.4

[1] Data for 2008 are provisional and subject to change.

[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 (total of 18 incidents) and 2003 (total of five incidents)

[3] Average age is calculated on the basis of all fatalities in dwelling fires.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths there were of people aged *(a)* one to four, *(b)* five to 10, *(c)* 11 to 16, *(d)* 17 to 24, *(e)* 25 to 29, *(f)* 30 to 59, *(g)* 60 to 64, *(h)* 65 to 79 and *(i)* 80 and over, per million population, in domestic fires in England in each year since 2000. [303378]

Mr. Malik: The fatal casualties in dwelling fire rates per million population by age group, are shown in the table.

Fatal casualties in dwelling fires rates per million population by age group, England, 2000-08[1]

Age group	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*[2]	*2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Rate (per million) of fatal casualties	7.0	7.3	6.2	6.9	5.3	5.7	5.7	4.9	5.0
Under 1 year	1.7	1.8	1.8	3.5		3.3	1.6	4.7	
1-4	4.1	5.5	4.8	10.6	2.5	4.4	5.1	3.3	1.6
5-10	3.1	3.7	4.8	1.6	3.0	2.8	2.3	0.6	1.7
11-16	1.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.5	0.3
17-24	2.5	4.4	2.7	3.2	2.0	2.9	1.1	1.8	1.6
25-29	3.7	4.3	4.4	7.4	3.2	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.3
30-59	6.1	5.6	5.3	6.2	4.5	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.5
60-64	7.5	9.0	8.3	6.2	6.4	8.5	7.4	5.2	6.6
65-79	13.2	12.2	10.6	10.4	9.7	11.0	12.1	9.6	8.9
80 and over	15.8	18.1	24.9	28.1	21.3	18.7	26.4	23.3	23.8
Unspecified									

[1] Data for fatal casualties 2008 are provisional and subject to change

[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 (total of 18 incidents) and 2003 (total of five incidents)

Sources:

Fire incidents data base, Communities and Local Government, and Mid-Year Population Estimates 2000 to 2008, Office for National Statistics.

Fires: Elderly

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent assessment has been made of the vulnerability of older people to domestic fires; and if he will make a statement; [303376]

(2) what plans he has to reduce the number of deaths of older people caused by fires in domestic dwellings. [303377]

Mr. Malik: The Government are committed to reducing all fire deaths and use research and statistics to inform more effective targeting of fire safety messages. We are aware of the potential vulnerability of older people to domestic fire. The latest fire statistics (2007) show that over 50 per cent. of the fatalities in accidental dwelling fires were aged over 65.

Independent research, published in 2006, highlighted five key groups who were more vulnerable to fire and harder to reach with crucial messages, one of whom was older people. The Government's Fire Kills campaign seeks to reduce fire deaths in older age groups through specifically targeting its television advertising at programmes that older people are likely to watch. The campaign recognises the importance of partnership working. We are pursuing a range opportunities with Help The Aged/Age Concern, the main suppliers of oxygen to hospital out-patients, and Bowls England, as a means to deliver fire safety messages to older people through their trusted communication channels.

Between 2004 and 2008, Government provided pump-priming funding of £25 million to fire and rescue services to deliver a programme of home fire risk checks. Firefighters target this free service to vulnerable groups in their communities, including older people and provide tailored fire safety advice and, where necessary, install free smoke alarms. Fire and rescue services continue to deliver this programme and funding is now available through the Revenue Support Grant Block Grant.

Green Belt: Property Development

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the green belt is not adversely affected by housing development. [302082]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government are committed to the protection of green belt and its crucial characteristics of openness and permanence. Under our policy in PPG2 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, Green Belts), house building in green belt other than limited infill in villages or affordable housing for local needs allowed for in development plan policies is 'inappropriate development'. Any such proposal would be subject to the tests set out in PPG2.

Government encouragement to give priority to "brownfield" development is also playing its part. In 2008, 80 per cent. of dwellings (including conversions) were built on brownfield land. Also, homes were built at an average of 44 per hectare. This all helps to reduce the pressure on both greenfield and green belt land.

Green belt area at 31 March 2009 was estimated to be 1,638,840 hectares, around 13 per cent. of the land area of England. This represents a net increase of 3,170 hectares on the 31 December 2007 estimate of 1,635,370 hectares.

Homelessness

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were classified as homeless in each region in each of the last two years. [303572]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available, and this information is also collected.

The regional figures for the number of applicants accepted as owed a main duty and the number of households in temporary accommodation for each financial year since 1998-99 can be found in tables 3 and 7 of the latest statistical release, accessible from this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Information is also collected and reported on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. Local authority data and count guidance can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/roughsleeping/

Housing

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 525-6W, on housing, how many first-time buyers there were in *(a)* Norwich North constituency and *(b)* each region in each year since 1997. [301758]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on numbers of mortgages to first time buyers is collected and published at the UK level by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Housing: Energy

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward requirements for the retrofitting of the existing UK housing stock with heating system water treatment cleaners and inhibitors. [302115]

Mr. Ian Austin: Current building regulations guidance calls for the application of water treatment when heating systems are installed in new and existing dwellings.

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much grant his Department has allocated to *(a)* the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government and *(b)* the Leadership Centre for Local Government in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [303578]

Barbara Follett: The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) received the following amounts of core funding from my Department for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

	£ million
2008-09	28.73
2009-10	32.67

As part of this the Leadership Centre for Local Government has received £2 million in each year.

Allocations for 2010-11 have not yet been agreed and are currently out for consultation.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303339]

Barbara Follett: The Department has entered into no commercial contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since 2009.

Local Government Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the shortfall in local authority funding following recovery operations after the floods of summer 2007; and whether he plans to make up the shortfall from central Government funds. [302145]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at June 2008, it was estimated that local authorities had spent £224 million on the response to and recovery from the summer 2007 floods. This total includes insurable costs.

Government made available a comprehensive package of over £136 million to assist the affected regions and help those in greatest need, including funding for schools, transport and businesses.

The Bellwin scheme was activated nationwide, for all authorities affected by the June and July 2007 floods. The schemes announced by the Prime Minister were among the most generous ever, with an extension of the period for which local authorities are eligible to claim from two months to six months and an increase in the proportion of costs local authorities could claim to 100 per cent. (instead of the usual 85 per cent.), once they spent above their usual threshold (0.2 per cent. of their revenue budget). Around £19 million was paid out through this scheme.

In addition, we exceptionally made available Flood Recovery Grant of £18.4 million to support the work of the hardest hit local authorities in helping these people in their communities in greatest need and, in July 2008, £30.6 million was allocated under the Restoration Fund to support their continued efforts to rebuild their communities. The Department for Children, Schools and Families also made £13.5 million available for schools and children's services affected by the floods.

Local authorities are expected to meet some of the costs of flooding by claiming on their insurance policies, reprioritising their budgets, and using their reserves, if necessary. Every local authority is required to maintain reserves, one of the main purposes of which is to meet unexpected costs.

Local Government Finance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the London local government finance settlement for the London Borough of Bexley *(a)* was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09 and *(b)* is for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [303721]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the amount for formula grant, which is made up of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates for non-police authorities, for the period requested.

	Prior years adjusted formula grant[1] *(£ million)*	*Current year's formula grant (£ million)*	*Change (£ million)*	*Percentage change*
Amended 2005-06	173.518	182.531	9.013	5.2
2006-07[2]	56.490	57.671	1.181	2.1
2007-08	57.182	58.726	1.544	2.7
2008-09	62.365	63.612	1.247	2.0
2009-10	63.538	64.650	1.112	1.75
Provisional 2010-11	64.621	65.591	0.969	1.5

[1] The prior year's formula grant is adjusted for changes in function and funding to enable a like-for-like comparison.

[2] Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the likely amount to be billed to businesses in each region in national non-domestic rates in *(a)* total and *(b)* respect of properties experiencing a rates reduction as a result of the planned transitional relief scheme in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [303653]

Barbara Follett: No estimates of the likely bills have been made, as these contain not only transitional relief but all other reliefs, some determined at the billing authorities' discretion. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the likely bill of a hereditament.

For the purpose of modelling the 2010 transitional relief scheme, the Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) was calculated. The NCA for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition but before all other reliefs. Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the "Transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England" consultation document. These include zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available, and adjustments for appeals.

A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was billed to businesses in each region for national non-domestic rates in 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures in 2009-10. [303654]

Barbara Follett: The net amount of non-domestic rates that should have been collected in 2008-09 after reliefs, in each region in England, are given in the following table.

Data for 2009-10 are not yet available.

Estimated net collectable debit in respect of 2008-09 non-domestic rates

	£000
North East	724,119
North West	2,287,952
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,647,167
East Midlands[1]	1,368,470
West Midlands	1,806,357
East of England	1,965,847
London	5,057,209
South East	3,102,642
SouthWest[1]	1,545,321
Total England	19,505,084

[1] Data for Harborough and Isle of Scilly are estimated as their QRC4 returns were not received in time for inclusion in the statistical release.

Source:

QRC4 Quarterly Return of Council Tax and Non-domestic rates 2008-09

These data are also available in Table 3 of the statistical release "Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2008-09", which was published on 25 June 2009 and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates

Property Development: Common Land

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications to *(a)* build on and *(b)* develop common land (i) in England and Wales and (ii) in Rochdale constituency have been made since entry into force of the relevant provisions of the Commons Act 2006. [303659]

Mr. Ian Austin: A total of 105 applications, which relate to the development of common land, have been made under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 and related commons enactments. Of these, 40 applications relate to the proposed construction of buildings or structures on common land. None relate to the Rochdale parliamentary constituency. Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 is not yet in force in Wales.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what alternative land was offered to common land owners in cases where permission to develop or build on common land was granted in *(a)* Rochdale constituency and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last three years. [303663]

Mr. Ian Austin: In the last three calendar years, where land was given in exchange to the owner of the common land, consent has been granted for a total of eight applications in England. There were no applications which related to the Rochdale parliamentary constituency. Consent was granted for one application in Wales.

Rented Housing

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he proposes to implement his proposals for *(a)* the licensing of letting agents and *(b)* the national register of landlords. [302875]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have been consulting on our proposals for the licensing of letting agents and the national register of landlords and plan to announce the outcome of that consultation shortly.

Social Rented Housing: South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints his Department has received on the standard of social housing in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last 10-years. [301279]

Mr. Ian Austin: Housing is a matter devolved to Wales. The information requested is not held centrally.

Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation has made to Connect Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302217]

Mr. Malik: In the last 12 months, the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation has paid £45,102 in professional fees to Connect Public Affairs in support of their communications strategy, stakeholder engagement and production of allied events. The contract between the corporation and Connect Public Affairs is commercially confidential.

Vacant Land: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of non-flood plain land in the Tamworth borough council area is green space. [303177]

Mr. Ian Austin: 69 per cent. of non-flood plain land is deemed to be green space in the borough of Tamworth. This information has been obtained from Tamworth borough council as Government do not maintain a comprehensive record of information on green spaces.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of land area in Tamworth borough was green space in 2004. [303178]

Mr. Ian Austin: Unfortunately we are unable to identify a comparison figure for 2004 for green space. However, Tamworth borough can not recall any significant losses of the green space network if any at all since 2004. Therefore the figure shown in the Tamworth borough local plan 2001-2011 adopted on 6 July 2006 is the best approximation of green space land, being 1,189 hectares (2,940 acres) which is 38 per cent. of the total area of Tamworth borough.

JUSTICE

British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the deliberative event on the British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and a written constitution held on 21 November 2009. [303262]

Mr. Wills: The deliberative event on 21 November 2009, which is one of a series designed to support qualitative research, was attended by the following persons:

(a) One Minister—Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Assistant Regional Minister for the North East of England (in place of the right hon. Nick Brown, the Regional Minster)

(b) Four officials from the Ministry of Justice.

(c) No representatives from local authorities.

(d) (i) 115 invited members of the general public.

(d) (ii) The deliberative events were open only to those who were invited to constitute a broadly representative sample of the population as a whole. It follows that no non-invited members of the general public attended the event on 21 November.

Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* started and *(b)* completed a domestic violence perpetrator programme in each probation area in each year since such programmes were introduced. [302314]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service are currently collating the requested information and I hope to be in a position to write to the hon. Member before the end of the year.

Driving Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for *(a)* drink-driving and *(b)* each other motoring offence resulted in a custodial sentence in (i) Lewes constituency, (ii) Sussex and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [301274]

Mr. Straw: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area and England for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and other motoring offences (by offence type) is given in tables 1 and 2 from 1998 to 2007 (latest available). Sentences of immediate custody imposed at all courts are given in tables 3 and 4.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence group	*Offence type*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
2	Dangerous driving	64	71	56	82	75	65	64	83	66	61
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	1,954	2,021	1,925	2,205	2,158	2,251	2,295	2,157	2,273	2,279
4	Careless driving	916	697	495	398	301	180	176	191	207	368
5	Accident offences	153	147	127	96	86	103	84	63	88	105
7	Driving licence related offences	658	744	763	819	747	656	549	551	573	588
9	Vehicle insurance offences	3,087	2,780	2,492	2,526	2,278	2,156	2,269	2,100	2,401	2,681
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	268	356	55	77	427	208	438	446	623	906
11	Work record and employment offences	108	130	73	86	98	56	35	58	50	22
12	Operator's licence offences	27	35	39	38	40	27	16	17	9	6
13	Vehicle test offences	513	331	237	223	184	108	68	40	44	58
14	Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records	45	50	44	54	30	23	19	13	17	11
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	262	217	169	138	130	77	41	56	62	83
16	Speed limit offences	3,614	3,097	3,422	2,594	1,715	2,756	2,414	3,346	3,507	3,894
17	Motorway offences (other than speeding)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	Neglect of traffic directions	485	332	555	139	70	96	235	308	511	628
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	102	90	99	79	31	16	19	17	16	18

Table 1 The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence group	*Offence type*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	442	452	544	549	150	140	194	172	132	139
21	Lighting offences	46	39	45	27	24	14	3	6	5	16
22	Noise offences	23	17	11	18	10	1	3	2	2	—
23	Load offences	175	167	97	57	121	121	49	30	54	25
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	5	2	6	5	3	2	2	—	—	4
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	753	587	549	286	347	319	348	438	345	448
	Total	13,701	12,362	11,803	10,497	9,025	9,375	9,321	10,094	10,985	12,340

Table 2 The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence group	*Offence type*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
2	Dangerous driving	4,024	3,633	3,716	3,807	4,512	5,035	4,951	4,330	3,987	3,817
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	77,578	74,413	71,471	70,854	76,191	78,291	80,986	79,005	78,410	76,145
4	Careless driving	39,524	33,414	29,016	25,646	22,582	20,279	19,711	19,325	18,204	27,106
5	Accident offences	5,639	5,406	5,107	5,384	5,243	5,613	5,749	5,469	5,419	5,535
7	Driving licence related offences	37,043	37,389	37,656	38,518	41,512	49,042	52,550	48,895	43,901	41,710
9	Vehicle insurance offences	157,532	155,039	159,841	157,522	170,470	194,103	204,708	188,749	181,047	162,854
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	10,856	8,930	10,567	12,180	17,822	[illegible]	21,380	12,211	10,136	10,213
11	Work record and employment offences	6,017	5,006	4,493	3,940	3,107	2,890	2,336	2,030	1,830	1,338
12	Operator's licence offences	1,784	1,476	1,580	1,263	981	777	704	703	640	461
13	Vehicle test offences	22,485	19,754	16,302	13,842	12,798	13,583	13,066	11,242	9,108	7,166
14	Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records	4,251	3,845	3,235	3,270	3,077	3,021	2,445	1,816	1,404	1,029
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	17,446	14,476	11,661	9,141	7,670	6,961	7,387	6,674	6,207	6,189
16	Speed limit offences	138,463	133,535	124,105	121,515	110,485	122,839	134,134	141,995	137,022	134,144
17	Motorway offences (other than speeding)	1,866	1,373	2,088	1,481	1,792	1,181	1,423	1,751	1,186	1,070
18	Neglect of traffic directions	26,337	24,999	25,486	23,582	21,516	20,823	22,372	19,556	21,076	21,077
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	4,814	4,009	3,104	2,471	2,079	2,169	2,139	1,909	1,514	1,552
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	15,418	14,777	12,702	12,070	11,606	12,037	9,747	7,190	5,742	3,659
21	Lighting offences	4,230	3,890	2,912	2,306	2,167	2,055	2,177	2,123	1,892	1,601
22	Noise offences	1,118	1,050	786	655	459	415	376	349	277	219
23	Load offences	12,913	9,904	9,285	7,791	6,592	6,737	5,844	4,576	4,406	4,093
24	Offences pecular to motor cycles	233	201	259	249	213	226	295	209	197	152
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	40,394	41,838	40,449	38,236	42,851	55,151	71,505	67,896	49,384	67,024
	Total	629,965	598,357	575,821	555,723	565,725	625,124	665,985	628,003	582,989	578,154

Table 3: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in the Sussex police force area, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2,3]

Offence group	*Offence type*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
2	Dangerous driving	21	14	21	37	31	25	21	37	31	23
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	60	58	57	68	84	59	46	48	35	49
5	Accident offences	—	3	4	1	1	—	2	1	1	1
7	Driving licence related offences	198	269	309	346	315	251	188	154	136	121
9	Vehicle insurance offences	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
14	Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	Total	281	344	392	452	432	335	257	241	204	194

Table 4: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in England, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1998 to 2007[2,3]

Offence group	*Offence type*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
2	Dangerous driving	1,412	1,475	1,591	1,753	2,022	2,186	2,116	1,827	1,584	1,454
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3,536	3,433	3,239	3,249	3,099	2,880	2,811	2,580	2,104	1,879
4	Careless driving	1	2	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	—
5	Accident offences	52	69	67	70	76	64	70	77	59	49
7	Driving licence related offences	9,966	11,230	11,665	12,402	12,562	13,300	11,177	9,175	7,008	5,420
9	Vehicle insurance offences	8	5	15	4	7	10	18	5	7	3
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	1	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
13	Vehicle test offences	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
14	Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records	14	22	9	9	20	15	13	12	7	6
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
16	Speed limit offences	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
18	Neglect of traffic directions	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
23	Load offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	2	4	8	5	5	3	3	3	1	3
	Total	14,994	16,243	16,602	17,494	17,792	18,460	16,213	13,681	10,778	8,818

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

Hollesley Bay Prison: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have absconded from HMP Hollesley Bay in each of the last five years; and how long each absconder had served in the prison before absconding. [302254]

Maria Eagle: The data in table 1 as follows shows the number of prisoners who have absconded from HMP Hollesley Bay in each of the last five years. Table 2 below shows how long each absconder had served in the prison before absconding.

Absconds have been falling for some years and last year recorded the lowest number of absconds on record. This year is on course to improve further on that record low. Prisoners abscond from prison for many reasons. While open prisons will look for indications that prisoners may be susceptible to absconding, both on allocation to the prison and during their stay in the prison, it is not possible to predict every instance in which a prisoner may want to abscond.

Table 1: Number of absconds from HMP Hollesley Bay in each of the last five years

	Number of absconds
2004-05	32
2005-06	16
2006-07	21
2007-08	19
2008-09	17
2009-10 to date	10
Total	115

Table 2: Days served by absconders in HMP Hollesley Bay before absconding in each of the last five years

	Abscond number	Days before abscond
2004-05	1	77
	2	255
	3	20
	4	0
	5	173
	6	31
	7	31
	8	10
	9	1
	10	1
	11	56
	12	150
	13	27
	14	32
	15	13
	16	93
	17	45
	18	9
	19	9
	20	46
	21	15
	22	95
	23	110
	24	129
	25	50
	26	97
	27	25
	28	9
	29	9
	30	78
	31	7
	32	7
2005-06	1	4
	2	12
	3	2
	4	31
	5	55
	6	164
	7	4
	8	64
	9	41
	10	18
	11	10
	12	32
	13	65
	14	264
	15	171
	16	131
2006-07	1	107
	2	104
	3	54
	4	97
	5	35
	6	33
	7	26
	8	7
	9	735
	10	37
	11	23
	12	96
	13	16
	14	4
	15	135
	16	184
	17	20
	18	29
	19	134
	20	62
	21	217
2007-08	1	74
	2	20
	3	59

Table 2: Days served by absconders in HMP Hollesley Bay before absconding in each of the last five years

	Abscond number	Days before abscond
	4	143
	5	7
	6	41
	7	1
	8	323
	9	329
	10	15
	11	9
	12	15
	13	9
	14	59
	15	257
	16	7
	17	3
	18	7
	19	8
2008-09	1	23
	2	578
	3	7
	4	88
	5	47
	6	72
	7	23
	8	22
	9	23
	10	104
	11	122
	12	375
	13	70
	14	82
	15	201
	16	78
	17	115
2009-10 to date	1	17
	2	12
	3	55
	4	18
	5	121
	6	26
	7	46
	8	49
	9	106
	10	40

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on absconds and a range of other prison performance statistics are available on:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Legal Aid

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid lawyers working in *(a)* family, *(b)* housing, *(c)* employment and *(d)* immigration law were available in each procurement area in each year since 2000. [302191]

Bridget Prentice: The tables containing the information requested have been placed in the Library of both Houses.

Legal Aid: Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications there have been for *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal legal aid from residents of Newcastle upon Tyne in the last five years. [302460]

Bridget Prentice: Applications for civil legal aid help and advice are made to individual providers. Existing data collection arrangements record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made.

Applications for civil legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The LSC collects data on the number of applications submitted to providers located within the local authority area for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and this is broken down for each of the past five financial years in table 1 as follows. A proportion of these applications will come from individuals resident outside Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Table 1: Applications for civil legal aid representation in the local authority area of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

FY	Number
2004-05	1,560
2005-06	1,580
2006-07	1,660
2007-08	1,600
2008-09	1,740

Applications for criminal legal aid cannot be identified on the basis of postcode information so it is not possible to provide details of applications submitted from residents in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. However, the LSC can identify the numbers of legal aid applications submitted to Newcastle-upon-Tyne magistrates court since means testing was introduced in October 2006, and these are set out in table 2. These applications include those submitted from defendants charged with an indictable only offence and facing trial before Newcastle-upon-Tyne Crown court. Some of these applications will have been submitted on behalf of individuals who do not reside in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Table 2: Legal aid applications submitted to Newcastle-upon-Tyne magistrates court

October to September each year	Number
2006-07	6,290
2007-08	6,700
2008-09	6,880

Offenders: Electronic Tagging

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of electronically monitored offenders on *(a)* community sentences, *(b)* bail and *(c)* release from prison licence (i) deliberately tampered with their tag and (ii) breached their curfew in each year since electronic monitoring was introduced. [302190]

Maria Eagle: We are able to provide data for those electronically tagged, for the last two years. This is shown in the following table. Earlier data are no longer available and obtaining that information would be possible only at disproportionate cost. The table includes the proportion of those who have tampered with their tags or breached their curfews, which are also new starts. These figures represent a percentage of electronic monitoring orders received by the service providers and not individuals.

The data provided are from the electronic monitoring service providers. The information held refers to breaches reported to the courts or to the relevant authority such as probation service, Prison Service, Youth Offending Service, or police, and does not necessarily relate to breach action taken.

	Community sentence	*Bail*	*Post release*
April 2007-March 2008			
Number of tag tampers	3,290	1,583	703
Proportion who were new starts (percentage)	6.5	6.1	4.5
Number of curfew breaches excluding tag tampers	11,017	10,629	2,144
Proportion who were new starts (percentage)	22.1	42.6	14.0
April 2008-March 2009			
Number of tag tampers	3,630	1,590	624
Proportion who were new starts (percentage)	6.6	5.2	4.1
Number of curfew breaches excluding tag tampers	12,664	11,722	2,418
Proportion who were new starts (percentage)	23.1	30.9	16.0

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many first time entrants into the criminal justice system there were in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [301480]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

The data on first time entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system from 1997 to 1999 are currently unavailable in this format.

FTE data from 2000-01 to 2008-09, by local authority, are published at table 2 here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/index.shtml

Open Prisons

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners convicted of murder are held in open prisons; [302249]

(2) how many prisoners serving life sentences are held in open prisons. [302250]

Maria Eagle: At the end of June 2009, the last date for which data is available, there were some 360 life prisoners, including 260 prisoners convicted of murder detained in exclusively open prisons in all the prison establishments in England and Wales.

Prisoners are assessed objectively in a process looking at all aspects of their offending behaviour, actions they have taken to reduce their likelihood of reoffending, and the risk they pose to the public. They are placed in the lowest security category consistent with their assessed risk. Only prisoners placed in the lowest security category (D) may be allocated open conditions.

Transfer of any prisoner to open conditions will only take place if continued detention in closed conditions is no longer necessary for the protection of the public. Open conditions allow prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties and reintegrate into the community. All these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are used to determine whether a prisoner is eligible to be held at open prison; and whether a conviction for premeditated murder is an automatic bar to being so held. [302248]

Maria Eagle: There is a well established categorisation and allocation system which aims to ensure that all prisoners are allocated to a prison with a security category consistent with managing their needs in terms of security and control. The categorisation process assesses the risks posed by individual prisoners in terms of: likelihood of escape or abscond; the risk of harm to the public in the event of an escape or abscond and any control issues that impact on the security of the prison and those within it. The risk assessment will take account of issues including: the nature and circumstances of the index offence, any previous convictions, positive and successful efforts to reduce identified risk levels.

Prisoners convicted of pre-meditated murder cannot be held in open prisons on their initial categorisation decision, but may be transferred to open prison conditions at a later stage as part of their sentence progression. Convicted murderers serving life sentences and other indeterminate sentence prisoners will be transferred from closed to open prison conditions only following the decisions of the independent Parole Board. Before making such a decision, the Parole Board must be satisfied that the case meets the criteria set out in the Directions to the Parole Board under section 32(6) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether convicted murderers serving life sentences are considered to be at a high risk of absconding from open prisons. [302120]

Maria Eagle: Any prisoner considered to present a high risk of absconding from open prisons will be held in closed conditions pending further assessments of risk, and systems are in place to achieve this.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have escaped from custody *(a)* during transfer between prisons and *(b)* in other circumstances in each month of the last five years. [302920]

Maria Eagle: There have been two escapes on an inter-prison transfer in the past five years. These occurred in October 2005 and March 2006.

The following data show the number of prisoners who have escaped from custody in England and Wales between April 2004 and December 2008. The number of escapes from custody has been falling since 1995 when centrally collated records began; this is against the backdrop of an increasing prison population.

Prisoners escaping from custody between 1 April 2004 to 31 December 2008 by month of escape according to type of escape

	Number of escapes from establishment	*Number of escapes from prison service escort*	*Number of escapes from contractor escort*
April 2004		2	1
May 2004	1	2	1
June 2004			2
July 2004	1	1	1
August 2004	1		1
September 2004	2		4
October 2004	1	1	1
November 2004	1		3
December 2004	3	1	4
January 2005			1
February 2005	2		1
March 2005		1	2
April 2005		1	3
May 2005		1	—
June 2005			3
July 2005		2	—
August 2005	1		1
September 2005			3
October 2005		3	1
January 2006	2	—	—
February 2006		1	2
March 2006			4
June 2006	1		2
July 2006			2
August 2006			1
September 2006	1		1
October 2006			1
November 2006			2
December 2006			2
January 2007		1	1
February 2007			1
March 2007			2
April 2007			2
May 2007			1
June 2007			1
August 2007	1		1
September 2007	2		1
October 2007		1	2
November 2007			2
December 2007			1
January 2008		1	2
March 2008	1		1
April 2008			1
May 2008		1	1
June 2008			1
October 2008		1	2
November 2008		1	4
December 2008			1

Notes

1. Data on escapes from contractor escorts include escorts from police station to court as these are carried out by National Offender Management Service contractors. These figures do not include other police-related escort escapes such as escapes while been transported from point of arrest to police station or transport between police stations.

2. All figures shown are for key performance indicator Escapes recorded as part of the NOMS performance management system.

Prisons: Operating Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated capital cost is of building each of the 1,500 place prisons his Department has proposed as an alternative to Titan prisons. [illegible]

Mr. Straw: It is estimated that the capital cost of constructing five 1,500 place prisons at 2008-09 prices is around £1.2 billion, excluding VAT and site purchase costs.

Residence Orders: Guardianship

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne and *(b)* each region and country of the UK were on (i) residence orders and (ii) guardianship orders (A) in each of the last five years and (B) at the latest date for which information is available. [302529]

Bridget Prentice: The number of children on a residence order or special guardianship order at any point in time is not held centrally. The number of residence orders and special guardianship orders made by courts in England and Wales in the last five years is shown in the following table.

Number of residence and special guardianship orders made: 2004 to June 2009

	Court	*Region*							
	Newcastle	*London*	*Midlands*	*North East*	*North West*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*England and Wales*
Public Law									
Residence Orders									
2004						—	—	—	2,765
2005					—	—	—	—	2,739
2006					—	—	—	—	2,600
2007	95	333	263	818	353	421	292	107	2,587
2008	59	246	418	734	361	508	381	93	2,743
January to June 2009	22	104	160	308	153	207	145	52	1,129
Special Guardianship Orders									
2004									
2005						—	—	—	
2006	12	88	77	62	79	92	58	17	473
2007	24	99	100	136	148	116	85	40	724
2008	29	157	83	179	191	162	100	48	929
January to June 2009	18	67	54	77	107	56	40	21	422
Private Law									
Residence Orders									
2004						—	—	—	25,904
2005					—	—	—	—	24,335
2006					—	—	—	—	23,185
2007	210	2,888	4,333	4,234	4,080	4,196	3,036	1,390	24,005
2008	195	2,882	4,571	4,510	3,831	4,305	3,128	1,619	24,926
January to June 2009	58	1,285	2,356	2,174	2,018	2,204	1,600	700	12,347
Special Guardianship Orders									
2004				—	—	—	—	—	—
2005				—	—	—	—	—	—
2006	1	23	29	13	12	46	22	13	158
2007	2	61	52	53	47	118	45	29	404
2008	17	72	66	51	88	127	64	37	507
January to June 2009	7	61	47	33	44	82	34	33	334

Notes

1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each order. More than one order may be made per child each year.
2. There have been data quality issues with figures for the family proceedings courts and a new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the level and accuracy of recording compared with previous years. For this reason regional and court level figures are not available pre-2007 and comparisons at a national level between pre and post 2007 figures should only be made with caution.
3. Figures are for special guardianship orders made in county and High Courts only. Separate figures for all family proceedings courts are not currently collected. Special guardianship orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
4. County court figures and figures for those family proceedings courts sharing administration with county courts are extracted from FamilyMan, a live system that is continually updated. Therefore figures may differ slightly from those previously published.

Source:

HMCS FamilyMan system and manual returns.

Sentencing: Ex-servicemen

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether veterans are identified as such on reception into custody; and what assistance his Department provides for such veterans. [302331]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners are routinely asked for details of their employment history as part of the prison induction process. Prison assessment procedures are being revised to include more specific questions to identify offenders who have served in the armed forces.

The Ministry of Defence works with third sector organisations and across Government to raise awareness among ex-service personnel of the help and support available to them and their families while they serve their sentence and prepare for release. Leaflets and posters have recently been distributed to prison establishments giving contact details of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), The Royal British Legion (TRBL), Soldiers Sailors Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help and Combat Stress and the types of support provided by these agencies. These include access to welfare officers; treatment for anxiety, post traumatic stress and sleep disorders; financial assistance; and help with rent, clothing, training, relocation and employment. The MoD funded Medical Assessment Programme is available for specialist military mental health advice for veterans in prison referred to them by prison medial staff. The programme has been extended to include reservists' mental health for those who have deployed since 2003.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance veterans handed down a custodial sentence are given by the Prison Service while serving their sentence. [302113]

Maria Eagle: Posters, leaflets and guides are available to governors and prison officers to help them to signpost veterans to the range of support services provided by Government and voluntary organisations. This includes Ministry of Defence funded mental health services and voluntary organisations providing resettlement support to veterans and their families. Many Governors have chosen to appoint a local point of contact for co-ordinating and promoting the services. A new guide: "Veterans in Custody Support—A Guide" will shortly be distributed to all prison establishments. This will be backed by training and support in the form of networking events and visits to establishments, during the period January to March 2010.

To complement veteran specific services, the Prison Service has access to 102 mental health in reach teams and provides a portfolio of interventions, containing 14 offending behaviour programmes, six drug programmes five therapeutic communities and a dangerous and severe personality disorder programme.

Officials are currently matching Ministry of Justice data on prisoners with Ministry of Defence data on veterans to find both the scale and scope of the issue of veterans in custody. This data will allow us to examine paths into offending and consider whether more specific services need to be developed for veterans in prisons.

TREASURY

Banks

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total monetary value was of *(a)* guarantees, *(b)* net capital injections and *(c)* asset purchases by his Department in respect of banks in each year since 2007, and as percentage of gross domestic product in 2009 to date. [303559]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1924W.

Bradford and Bingley and Northern Rock

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on fees and payments in the valuation exercise for *(a)* Bradford and Bingley shares and *(b)* Northern Rock shares when they were acquired by the Government. [302552]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The terms of appointment for the independent valuers appointed for the purposes of the Northern Rock plc and Bradford and Bingley plc compensation schemes, which include the arrangements for the payment of remuneration and reimbursement of expenses are available on the Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Child Care Vouchers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women have received childcare vouchers in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since their introduction. [302681]

Mr. Timms: Published research, commissioned by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in 2005, by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) estimated that 69 per cent. of the employees receiving Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) are women (Table 4.6, Page 49). NatCen's report is available at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm

The report also estimates the number of eligible employees offered employer supported childcare in late 2005 and that childcare vouchers represent the majority of the provision of ESC. Using these estimates along with the eligible employee take up rate for those offered ESC (on page 44) shows that approximately 63,200 women were receiving childcare vouchers at the end of 2005. Information for other time periods is not available.

The report also estimates the proportion of employers that offer ESC split by Government office region (Table A.7, Appendix A, page 19). From this, an estimated 85 per cent. of employers offered ESC are based in England and 1 per cent. in the North East of England. No such estimate is available for the constituency Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland.

These numbers should be treated with caution as the employee take up rate and use of vouchers over other forms of ESC would likely vary from region to region and this does not account for employees working in one region and living in another. All of these estimates are subject to very wide confidence intervals due to random sampling.

Child Trust Fund: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust funds have been opened for children resident in *(a)* Newport East constituency and *(b)* Wales since their introduction. [303498]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent constituency and regional level statistics on child trust fund accounts can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-nov09.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_trust_funds/dda-2009.htm

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301851]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Page views and unique visitors for the Department website for the period November 2008 to November 2009 are as follows:

Page views: 11,709,412

Unique visitors: 2,086,396

Statistics prior to October 2008 are unavailable due to the migration of the department website to centrally hosted servers.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302424]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The costs of maintaining the Departmental website are as follows:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Financial year	*Maintenance costs (£)*
2008-09	168,549

Maintenance costs include direct costs, for example web hosting, support, and infrastructure.

The forecast cost for maintaining websites within the Chancellor of the Exchequer's responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year are as follows:

Financial year	*Website*	*Forecast costs (£)*
2009-10	http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk	185,193
2009-10	http://www.isb.gov.uk	0
2009-10	http://www.gfp.gov.uk	0
2009-10	http://www.ogc.gov.uk	216,277
2009-10	http://www.dmo.gov.uk	47,000

These figures do not include any redevelopment costs associated with the web sites in question.

Under the Transformational Government strategy to rationalise websites the Invest to Save Budget website is being integrated into the HM Treasury site, therefore no costs are associated with this site. The Government Finance Profession website is supported by sponsorship therefore there is no cost to HM Treasury.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303258]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No offences were abolished during the relevant period.

The following offences were created during the relevant period.

All of these were created under the Banking Act 2009 (c.1), which received Royal Assent on 12 February 2009. These offences comprise:

Section 153(4) - failure without reasonable excuse to provide the FSA a copy of a notice regarding successful rescue;

Section 199(4) - failure to comply with an order to close a payment system;

Section 200(3) - breach of a prohibition on being the operator of a recognised inter-bank system;

Section 204(10) - failure without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement to supply information / to knowingly or recklessly give false information;

Section 205(1) - pretending to be a recognised inter-bank payment system;

Section 221(1)-unlawful issue of banknotes in Scotland or Northern Ireland;

Parts 2 and 3 (bank insolvency and bank administration) - sections 389 and 430 to 432 of the Insolvency Act 1986 are applied, which create new offences as they are applied to the insolvency procedures under the Banking Act.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* items of office furniture and *(d)* works of art have been (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each of the last three year; whether his Department has made an insurance claim on each such item; and what the estimated value of each such item was. [302932]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In respect of the numbers of *(a)* laptop computers and *(b)* mobile telephones lost by and stolen from the Department, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member Putney (Justine Greening) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 250W.

No *(c)* items of office furniture and *(d)* works of art have been lost by, or stolen from, the Department in the last three years.

In accordance with value for money guidance to all central government organisations, HM Treasury does not take out commercial insurance against these risks.

The estimated value of each laptop is £600 and of each mobile telephone is £50.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302711]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested on mileage could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold. Spending on taxis/private hire in 2008-09 was £219,000 and in 2007-08 £216,000. For information on spending in earlier years I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the former Exchequer Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1922W to the hon. Member for Hertford & Stortford (Mr. Prisk).

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [302946]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Any bespoke training that Ministers require is made available as necessary. There is no central provision for training special advisers.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302731]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers, including the Chancellor, have used various forms of public transport in the course of their ministerial duties over the last year.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302168]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The travel guidance issued to staff in HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office requires that driving licences are checked when a member of staff first hires a vehicle for official business and they are subsequently re-checked on an annual basis. Where a member of staff uses their own vehicle on official business, when making a claim for reimbursement of their expenses they acknowledge that they have valid insurance for business use that also covers passengers, possess a valid driving licence, maintain the vehicle in a roadworthy condition and, where appropriate, have a valid MOT certificate and maintain the vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's schedule. It is the claimant's line manager's responsibility to verify the insurance status of the claimant and any material changes to the insurance should be reported to the line manager.

When opting to drive on business, employees are reminded that on long journeys, a break of 15 to 20 minutes should be taken every two hours, the driver should ensure that they are familiar with the controls, particularly in hire vehicles, before setting off, and that it is illegal to use a mobile telephone while driving, and they should switch them off to avoid the possibility of distraction. Officials and line managers are required to report all accidents and incidents that occur during the course of work. This includes accidents whilst driving on official business. Any reported incidents involving injury are investigated and compliance is normally monitored through internal audit procedures.

Financial Institutions: Pay

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislative proposals to limit the remuneration of hedge fund directors. [300727]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have no plans to introduce legislative proposals to limit the remuneration of hedge fund directors.

However, the Government have taken steps to ensure that remuneration paid at systemically significant financial institutions is commensurate with a prudent approach to risk and leads to long-term value creation. The Financial Services Authority code, which comes into force on 1 January 2010, includes requirements for deferral and clawback from significant banking and other institutions. In addition, the Government are taking legislative measures in the Financial Services Bill that will bestow a duty on the FSA to ensure remuneration is consistent with effective risk management and will enable improved disclosure of remuneration, which in turn will facilitate better shareholder oversight of risk.

The FSA will review its Rule and Code during 2010.

Financial Services

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the amount of tax allowable losses of banks and financial services companies which will be carried forward from the 2008-09 financial year; and for how many years those losses will be allowable against tax. [302550]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the latest estimate is of the UK market share of the top five companies in *(a)* retail banking, *(b)* corporate banking, *(c)* mortgages, *(d)* insurance and re-insurance, *(e)* government bonds, *(f)* currencies and *(g)* credit swaps and derivatives. [303346]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302750]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not keep a central record of such charges and provision of the information could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Northern Rock

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he has repaid Northern Rock following an overcharge from the Treasury to Northern Rock; and how that overcharge came to be made. [302551]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's resource accounts for 2008-09 (HC 611) reported that the terms of the Government's loan to Northern Rock will change retrospectively to 1 April 2008 following state aid approval, which was received last month.

The financial implications for Northern Rock as a result of the change will be set out in the company's 2009 annual report and accounts.

Northern Rock: Compensation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the independent valuer to report on what compensation is payable as a result of the transfer of shares in Northern Rock plc to his Department. [302959]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams) on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 73W.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding has been provided to the Scottish Executive as Barnett consequentials in relation to the promotion and use of renewable energy sources in each of the last five years. [302645]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The Barnett formula has been applied to changes in provision of UK Government Departments in spending reviews over the last five years. The Barnett formula is applied to the aggregate changes in provision of Departments. Details are provided in spending review White Papers. Under the Barnett formula arrangements the Scottish Executive receives an unhypothecated block budget which it then allocates reflecting its own priorities. Details of spending by UK Government Departments can be found in their departmental reports. So while the Scottish Executive has received Barnett consequentials on spending on renewable energy sources these are not separately calculated or identified in its spending review settlements.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he agreed to the introduction of a spending base in respect of Barnett formula funding for Wales; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his correspondence with the Secretary of State for Wales on that matter. [303402]

Mr. Byrne: The operation of the Barnett formula is set out in the Statement of Funding Policy published by the Treasury in October 2007. In addition the Secretary of State for Wales announced to Parliament on 26 November 2009 arrangements for assessing spending trends in the next spending review.

Sony Ericsson: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax credit assistance the Government has provided to Sony Ericsson in the last 12 months. [302395]

Ian Pearson: We are unable to provide information relating to individual taxpayers' affairs.

Taxation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue which will be raised by the changes to tax reliefs announced in the written ministerial statement of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 57WS, on anti-avoidance. [302575]

Mr. Timms: The written ministerial statement of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 57WS, announced changes to legislation to counter four tax avoidance schemes with immediate effect. The Government estimate that closing these schemes down will yield £300 million by 2012-13, while also protecting over £1 billion of revenue.

Taxation: Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many aeroplanes in the UK are exempt from air passenger duty; and how many of them are privately-owned. [302773]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Air passenger duty (APD) is calculated on the number of passengers on board a flight on its take off from a UK airport. No tax is due on flights without passengers.

Exemptions apply for certain categories of passengers, including cabin crew and children under two who are not allocated their own seat. Flights that depart from an airport in the Scottish Highlands and Islands are also exempt.

Aircraft certified as having an authorised take off weight of less than 10 tonnes, or that are equipped to carry fewer than 20 passengers, are outside the scope of the tax, and consequently not liable to air passenger duty. We cannot say how many aircraft are outside the scope of APD; however, the Civil Aviation Authority publishes details of UK registered aircraft at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/
default.aspx?catid=56&pagetype=90&pageid=107

We do not have information on how many aircraft are privately-owned.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many individual bankruptcy petitions in which council tax arrears were mentioned as a significant reason were received by the Official Receiver in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [302123]

Ian Lucas: According to our database, the number of individual bankruptcy orders which are recorded as being made upon the petition of a local authority for each of the last five years ending 31 March were:

	Number
2008-09	3,821
2007-08	3,874
2006-07	3,959
2005-06	3,964
2004-05	3,117

In the majority of bankruptcy cases where a creditor presents a petition, often referred to as a creditor's petition bankruptcy, the petitioner is a single creditor. This creditor may not be the majority creditor. A local authority may also be a creditor in a creditor's petition bankruptcy case where it is not the petitioning creditor.

The number of cases cited above does not include cases where an individual presented their own bankruptcy petition, often referred to as a debtor's petition bankruptcy, where the local authority may have been one of their creditors. Such information is not readily available, but in any event it is unlikely in such cases that a debt to a local authority will have been a significant factor as compared with debts owed to other creditors.

I will not be making a statement on this.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the workforce who are non-UK nationals in each region. [302567]

Ms Butler: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the proportion of the workforce who are non-UK nationals in each region. (302567)

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, which is weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Proportion of economically active[1] people aged 16 and over who are non-UK nationals, by region, three month period ending September 2009—Not seasonally adjusted

Region	*Percentage*
North East	4
North West	6
Yorkshire and the Humber	4
East Midlands	5
West Midlands	6
East of England	7
London	24
South East	7
South West	5
Wales	4
Scotland	5
Northern Ireland	6
United Kingdom	8

Proportion of economically active[1] people aged 16 and over who are non-UK nationals, by region, three month period ending September 2009—Not seasonally adjusted

[1] Economically active people in employment plus those unemployed.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the workforce engaged in unskilled labour who are non-UK nationals. [302568]

Ms Butler: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the proportion of the workforce engaged in unskilled labour who are non-UK nationals. (302568)

In terms of the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) "unskilled labour" relates to those people classified to the "Elementary Occupations" group.

The most recent estimates are for the three-month period July-September 2009 and show that 13 percent of those people aged 16 and over employed in Elementary Occupations were non-UK nationals. The estimate is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The Figure is derived from the EFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, which is weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Insolvency: Complaints

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints have been received by *(a)* the Insolvency Service and *(b)* the Accountant in Bankruptcy in respect of insolvency practitioners and administrators in each of the last 10 years. [300680]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service does not hold the information requested.

The vast majority of insolvency practitioners are regulated by one of seven recognised professional bodies. Any complaint about the conduct of an insolvency practitioner is directed towards and dealt with by the appropriate recognised professional body.

The Insolvency Service published its first Annual Review of Insolvency Practitioner Regulation in June 2009. Information regarding the number of complaints received by the recognised professional bodies is contained within that report, and indicates that during 2008 a total of 828 complaints were received. Of those complaints, 197 related to insolvency practitioners acting as administrators.

The Insolvency Service intends to publish such a report on an annual basis in the future.

The Accountant in Bankruptcy is directly accountable to Ministers of the Scottish Parliament and does not therefore fall within the remit of this Department.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assistance the Government has provided to the manufacturing sector in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the West Midlands in the last 12 months; [302391]

(2) what estimate he has made of the size of contraction in the manufacturing sector since the start of the recession in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the West Midlands. [302392]

Ian Lucas: The Manufacturing Strategy launched in September 2008 brings together over £150 million support for a range of policy measures that address key issues impacting on competitiveness such as skills, design, technology, global value chains and the move to a low carbon economy. Work is also well under way to complete a new purpose-built Manufacturing Technology Centre at Ansty, near Coventry, which will provide industrial-scale demonstration facilities to help industry develop new manufacturing capabilities.

The Advanced Manufacturing package of measures announced in July 2009 provides more than £150 million from the Strategic Investment Fund to support the development of high tech manufacturing that will enable UK manufacturers to take advantage of new market opportunities.

Over the last 12 months, the Government have also launched the Real Help for Business package, and the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme where more than a quarter of a million orders for new vehicles have been placed, 9 per cent. of which were in the West Midlands.

The recently expanded Manufacturing Advisory Service has conducted 31,000 manufacturing reviews and supported more than 11,000 implementation projects worth nearly £700 million value added. Support in the West Midlands over the past year was worth £7.5 million.

In addition, Advantage West Midlands has provided assistance worth just over £54 million to manufacturers in the West Midlands over the last 12 months, including a £3.5 million boost for the automotive supply chain announced in July.

Based on ONS's latest Index of Production (IOP) data, manufacturing output in the UK declined 15.3 per cent. from peak to trough (February 2008 to August 2009), however there are no comparable data for manufacturing output in the West Midlands over the same time period.

In the UK, during the three months to June 2008 there were 2.87 million employee jobs in the manufacturing industry, while in the three months to June 2009 there were 2.64 million, a fall of 7.9 per cent. This compares to the West Midlands where there were 322,000 employee jobs in the manufacturing industry in the three months to June 2008, while in the three months to June 2009 there were 284,000, a fall of 11.8 per cent.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars emitting less than *(a)* 120g/km and *(b)* 100g/km of carbon dioxide have been purchased under the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme to date. [302894]

Ian Lucas: As at 30 November, for the completed scrappage transactions where we have data on carbon dioxide emissions, 35.7 per cent. have emissions in the range 100-119 g/km and 1.2 per cent. have emissions below 100 grams.

Research: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Government has provided for research and development in the last 12 months. [302393]

Mr. Lammy: In 2007, Government (including Higher Education Funding Councils and Research Councils) funded £7.7 billion (30 per cent. of all) R and D performed in the UK.

Source:

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Sony Ericsson: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what grant assistance the Government has provided to Sony Ericsson in the last 12 months. [302394]

Ian Lucas: While Advantage West Midlands, the regional development agency for the west midlands discussed the possibility of grants such as Selective Finance for Investment (SFI) to facilitate the consolidation of Ericsson's R and D facilities at Ansty, Ericsson chose not to take up the offer of support.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of each table from which *(a)* Chart 24 and *(b)* Chart 25 in the Analytical Annex to the Low Carbon Transition Plan were produced. [303521]

Joan Ruddock: The data will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Climate Change: Research

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 990-91W, on climate change: research, how much his Department has spent on modelling work into the environmental consequences of *(a)* injecting sulphate aerosols into the stratosphere, *(b)* encouraging low level cloud development to increase regional reflectivity and *(c)* other forms of geo-engineering. [303501]

Joan Ruddock: The amount of funding that the Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent on modelling work into the environmental consequences of different types of geo-engineering is:

(a) injecting sulphate aerosols into the stratosphere: £80,000;

(b) encouraging low level cloud development to increase regional reflectivity: £60,000; and

(c) other forms of geo-engineering: £15,000.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the University of East Anglia Climate Research Unit. [304033]

Joan Ruddock: Officials from the Department have had brief discussions with representatives of the University of East Anglia and its Climatic Research Unit to understand the nature of the attack on its IT systems and the actions they are planning to take.

Combined Heat and Power: EU Law

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to implement EU Directive 2004/8/EC on the promotion of cogeneration; and if he will make a statement. [302641]

Joan Ruddock: The UK has implemented EU Directive 2004/8/EC in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Details of how the directive has been implemented as at October 2007 were contained in a report to the European Commission published on the DECC website under the title "Evaluation of progress towards increasing share of high-efficiency cogeneration".

Departmental Manpower

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 456W, on departmental buildings, what the job titles are of the 25 London-based staff in premises other than 3 Whitehall Place. [303507]

Joan Ruddock: Staff concerned with the Department's non-proliferation responsibilities are currently housed in 1 Victoria street. Their job titles cover nuclear non-proliferation, chemical weapons non-proliferation and the delivery of the UK Global Threat Reduction Programme.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members of his Department's Delivery and Strategy High Level Board are. [303544]

Joan Ruddock: The Delivery and Strategy High-Level (DASH) Board has 18 full members covering nine Government Departments with an interest in energy and climate change issues.

The DASH Board comprises:

Chair

1. Phil Wynn Owen, DECC (the SRO for the Climate Change PSA).

Programme Board Chairs

2. National Programme Board: Paul McIntyre, DECC.
3. International Programme Board: Will Cavendish, DECC.

Departmental Representatives

4. Simon Virley, DECC.
5. Peter Betts, DECC.
6. Graham White, DECC.
7. David Wagstaff, DECC (Office of Climate Change).
8. Colin Church, DECC.
9. Robin Fellgett, Cabinet Office (Domestic).
10. Chris Martin, HMT.
11. Richard McCarthy, CLG.
12. Vicky Bowman/Deborah Bronnert, FCO (job share).
13. Janice Munday, BIS.
14. Robin Mortimer, DEFRA.
15. Richard Hatfield, DfT.
16. Andrew Steer, DFID.

Interdepartmental Analysis

17. Vicky Pryce, BIS.
18. Simeon Thornton, DECC.

Right to request invite

19. Michael Jacobs, No. 10 SpAd.
20. John Ashton, FCO.
21. Archie Young, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit.

Electricity Generation: Costs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of generating 1 MW of electricity by each different generating technology. [303523]

Mr. Kidney: The Government have carried out analysis on generation costs in recent years to inform policy decisions. Some of these estimates were published as part of the Energy Review (2006) at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32014.pdf

More recently the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) have published estimated levelised costs (£/MWh, in 2008 prices) associated with 1 MWh of electricity generated, for their December 2008 report at:

http://www.theccc.org.uk/pdf/TSO-ClimateChange.pdf,

as set out in table 1 and include construction, operation and maintenance costs and where applicable the cost of carbon allowances (EU emissions trading scheme). Moreover, for nuclear, they also include the costs of decommissioning and waste.

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. In reality, there are large uncertainties and ranges around these figures.

Technology	*Levelised cost (£/MWh) 2010*
Wind plant	
Onshore wind (high wind)	65
Offshore wind (high wind)	83
Coal-fired plant	
Coal—central fuel	54

Technology	*Levelised cost (£/MWh) 2010*
Gas-fired plant	
CCGT central fuel	53
Nuclear plant	
Nuclear	51

Source:
The Committee on Climate Change (2008) 'Building a low-carbon economy' p189

The costs of most generation technologies have increased over the past 18 months, primarily due to increases in input prices. Work is ongoing to update Government's cost assumptions for different forms of generation.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on the electric heating and heat pump industry of the use of the Standard Assessment Procedure grid carbon dioxide methodology for the purposes of calculating the energy performance of buildings; and if he will meet representatives of the electric heating and heat pump industry to discuss that matter. [302140]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is currently examining all responses received to our consultation on the proposed changes to the Standard Assessment Procedure including those from the UK electric heating and heat pump industry. We will examine all the information provided before any decision to amend SAP is taken. Officials have already met with representatives from the electric heating and heat pump industry and a further meeting is scheduled for 14 December.

Energy: Housing

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the energy efficiency savings that would accrue from the application of heating system water treatment cleaners and inhibitors in homes. [302111]

Joan Ruddock: Heating system efficiency is determined by the combination of its main components such as the boiler and radiators. Therefore, adding water treatment cleaner or inhibitors does not increase the overall efficiency.

The application of water treatment cleaners and inhibitors is regarded as good practice within the heating installation industry to ensure the efficiency of the system is maintained over its lifetime, however, we do not hold any data to verify this assertion.

Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of pensioner households in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK were in fuel poverty (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [303530]

Mr. Kidney: Figures on the number and proportion of fuel poor households containing someone aged 60 or over are shown in the following table. Data on a consistent basis are only available from 2003 to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

Age of oldest person in household 60 or over

	Fuel poor households	
60 or more	*Number (1,000) households*	*Proportion of pensioner households in fuel poverty*
2003	634	8.9
2004	604	8.2
2005	794	10.5
2006	1,285	17.0
2007	1,462	18.4

Figures are available for England only.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been allocated to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and (i) what proportion of funding will be for England, (ii) what carbon dioxide emissions reduction is expected to be achieved, (iii) how many properties will be affected and (iv) how many jobs will be created in each of those years. [301088]

Joan Ruddock *[holding reply 24 November 2009]:* As at September 2009 the amount of funding allocated to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14 is as shown:

Note:

The LCBP programmes (phase-1 and phase-2) are due to close on 31 March 2011.

Allocation of funding

In Budget 2009, an additional £45 million was allocated to the LCBP programme which was allocated as follows:

				£
	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*Total*
LCBP-1 (Householders)	1,000,000	5,000,000	0	6,000,000
LCBP-2 (Communities and other not-for-profit etc.)	29,000,000	10,000,000	0	39,000,000
Total	30,000,000	15,000,000	0	45,000,000

The geographical division of funding

There is no prescriptive allocation of funding within the programmes for regions or nations as the programmes allocates funding on a first-come-first-served basis. However, using historical information, we estimate that the approximate 'split' of where funding will be made is as follows:

	2009-10 (£)	*2010-11 (£)*	*Total (£)*	*Percentage*
England	25,800,000	12,900,000	38,700,000	86
Northern Ireland	600,000	300,000	900,000	2
Scotland	1,500,000	750,000	2,250,000	5
Wales	2,100,000	1,050,000	3,150,000	7
Total	30,000,000	15,000,000	45,000,000	100

Number of installations

Based on an estimate of 60 per cent. in 2009-10 and 40 per cent. in 2010-11 to account for the introduction (and therefore closure of the programmes to electrical microgeneration on 31 March 2010) of green energy cash-backs (feed-in tariffs), our forecast for the number of installations is as follows:

	Number			
Installations	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*	*Percentage*
England	6,703	4,469	11,172	91
Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0
Scotland	139	92	231	2
Wales	553	369	922	7
Total	7395	4930	12,325	100

We are unable to make a forecast with regards to Northern Ireland as they are currently undergoing public consultation on their own legislation for a 'FITs equivalent'. We will revise these figures when the outcome in published.

Carbon dioxide emission reduction

It is not possible to give accurate estimates of the anticipated carbon savings attributable to installations in 2009 through to 2011 as this is dependent on the size, efficiency and type of equipment to be specified in future applications, however, since inception of the programmes in early 2007, we estimate that the savings from installed equipment to date is as follows:

	Estimated Carbon units (per annum)	*Estimated Carbon units (lifetime)*	*Number of completed installations*
LCBP-1 (Householders)	2,555	61,825	8,480
LCBP-2 (Communities, not-for profit etc.)	10,240	224,259	2,845
Total	12,795	286,084	11,325

With an estimate of 12,325 installations in financial year 2009-10 to FY 2010-11, we would anticipate approximately doubling the above savings.

Green jobs

The Department does not hold information on the number of people employed in the microgeneration industry.

The additional £45 million funding that was allocated to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in the recent Budget will create jobs and move the microgeneration industry supply chain to a position where it can contribute to achieving the challenging 2020 renewable targets. Our Renewable Energy Strategy consultation estimated that renewable energy could generate 160,000 jobs by 2020, both in the UK and abroad. Since the consultation, research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) suggests that the size of the renewable energy sector and of the broader low-carbon and environmental goods and services economy, has been substantially underestimated. Based on the research projections and Labour Force Survey data, we estimate that this strategy, combined with a growing market for renewable energy across Europe and globally, could increase UK employment in the renewable energy sector by up to 500,000 people by 2020. (These projections use a broad definition of the sector and are subject to considerable uncertainty).

Nuclear Power Stations: Bradwell

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will arrange for *(a)* an exhibition and *(b)* public discussions to be held in Colchester constituency on proposals for a new nuclear power station at Bradwell, Essex. [303655]

Mr. Kidney: DECC will be holding both an exhibition and public discussion, as part of its consultation on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement, at the Mersea centre in West Mersea, Colchester on 10 December. There are more details on the venue on the event's website:

www.nuclear-nps-events.info

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria were used for choosing locations for the exhibition and public discussion on proposals for a new nuclear power station at Bradwell, Essex; and if he will make a statement. [303656]

Mr. Kidney: Venues were chosen to be as close to the proposed nuclear power station site and while being as accessible as possible, our priority is to facilitate participation by as many people as possible.

We took into account a number of principles which helped us in choosing the exhibition location. These included:

Journey time to proposed site

Historic evidence of attendance levels to similar consultations

Existence of multiple proposed sites in one area

A wide range of venues were considered for each location. Suggested venues have been recommended by local authorities and energy companies (who have undertaken similar events in the past) and we have endeavoured to use as many of these recommendations as possible. A continuous three-day slot that stayed open into the evening was also sought, which meant many venues were unavailable due to regular weekly clubs/fitness programmes etc.

The priority was finding the largest possible venues, nearest to the site and with as good accessibility to the public as possible.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of UK electricity that will come from renewable sources in 2010. [303522]

Mr. Kidney: The most recent estimate, produced for the central scenario of the Low Carbon Transition Plan, is that 7 per cent. of UK electricity will come from renewable sources in 2010.

Sellafield: Floods

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the evacuation plan for Sellafield following the recent floods in Cumbria; and what direct effect the flooding had on the Sellafield site. [303069]

Mr. Kidney: Evacuation plans were tested at Sellafield on 24 September 2009 as part of the annual national nuclear exercise and remain fit for purpose.

There has been no impact on safety and operations at the Sellafield Site, no threat to site facilities and plants have remained operating as normal.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the operation of sections (i) 1 and (ii) 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what recent discussions he has had with (A) the Chancellor of the Exchequer and (B) other Ministerial colleagues on the effectiveness of the operation of the Act; what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act; and if he will make a statement. [300810]

Joan Ruddock: As required by section 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, the Secretary of State published a strategy for reducing fuel poverty in 2001. The Government's latest evaluation of its progress towards the targets is contained in the Strategy was published on 21 October 2009. A copy of that document along with Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics have been placed in the House Library and can also be found on the website of the Department of Energy and Climate Change at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/default.aspx

The Department is undertaking Research into the causes of fuel poverty.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has regular meetings with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other colleagues on a wide range of topics.

On 30 July this year, the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Friends of the Earth and Age UK and upheld the decision of the hon. Mr. Justice McCombe that the Secretary of State for DECC is fulfilling his duties under the 2000 Act in respect of tackling fuel poverty. DECC has also recently received correspondence from the Association for the Conservation of Energy requesting information on fuel poverty data.

CABINET OFFICE

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in *(a)* Meriden constituency, *(b)* Solihull Metropolitan Borough, *(c)* the West Midlands and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [303355]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Meriden constituency, (b) Solihull metropolitan borough, (c) the West Midlands and (d) England and Wales have been diagnosed with breast cancer in each year since 1997. [303355]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for each year from 1997 to 2007 for (a) Meriden parliamentary constituency, (b) Solihull metropolitan district, (c) West Midlands government office region and (d) England and Wales.

Table 1 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2] (a) Meriden parliamentary constituency, (b) Solihull metropolitan borough, (c) West Midlands government office region and (d) England[3] and Wales[4], 1997 to 2007[5]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Meriden	57	76	90	74	79	90	87	84	93	77	72
Solihull	129	178	199	155	166	192	173	198	184	178	165
West Midlands	3,541	3,657	3,697	3,776	3,790	3,871	4,035	4,050	4,279	4,112	4,229
England and Wales	35,745	36,088	38,021	37,174	37,887	37,910	40,178	40,331	41,091	40,746	40,757

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Around 99 per cent. of breast cancer cases are in women.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures for Wales provided by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence Surveillance Unit.

[5] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Business: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses there were in *(a)* Newport East constituency and *(b)* Wales in each of the last 12 years. [303476]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses there were in *(a)* Newport East constituency and *(b)* Wales in each of the last 12 years. (303476)

Annual statistics on business size and location are available from the ONS release on UK Business: Activity, Size and Location. Data relate to March each year and are available from 2000 onwards. The table below contains the enterprise counts for 2000-2009. Small businesses are defined as those with less than 50 employment.

	Newport East Constituency	*Wales*
2000	1,455	82,465
2001	1,435	83,150
2002	1,425	82,690
2003	1,450	81,865
2004	1,470	83,085

	Newport East Constituency	*Wales*
2005	1,540	87,195
2006	1,540	88,885
2007	1,580	90,990
2008	1,585	91,750
2009	1,570	90,435

Death: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributed to the use of anti-psychotic drugs there have been since 1997. [302898]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths have been attributed to the use of anti-psychotic drugs there have been since 1997. (302898)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and an anti-psychotic drug was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances, in England and Wales, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Where more than one drug is mentioned on the death certificate, it is not always possible to tell which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

Table 1. Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death,[1] and an anti-psychotic drug was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales,[2] 1997 to 2008[3]

	Deaths (persons)
1997	48
1998	57
1999	55
2000	76
2001	70
2002	54
2003	65
2004	79
2005	86
2006	77
2007	82
2008	87

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997-2000 and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) from 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in box 1 as follows) and where an anti-psychotic drug was mentioned on the death certificate either alone or together with other substances.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980.5	Y10-Y14

Death: Sickle Cell Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributed to complications arising from sickle cell anaemia there have been in each year since 1997. [302911]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths attributed to complications arising from sickle cell anaemia there have been in each year since 1997.(302911)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where sickle-cell anaemia was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where sickle-cell anaemia was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 1997-2008[1] [2] [3]

	Number
1997	18
1998	13
1999	13
2000	22
2001	20
2002	19
2003	17
2004	16
2005	19
2006	14
2007	17
2008	20

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 282.6 (Sickle-cell anaemia) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes D57.0 (Sickle-cell anaemia with crisis) and D57.1 (Sickle-cell anaemia without crisis) for the years 2001 onwards.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to her Department was of the provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in (i) the Prime Minister's Office and (ii) her Department in the 2008-09 financial year. [302979]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Communications

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department's communications/support officer within the professional head of intelligence analysis team is affiliated to the Government communications network. [302209]

Angela E. Smith: The communications support officer within the professional head of intelligence analysis team deals with internal cross-government communications. The post is not part of the Government communications network.

Industrial Disputes

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the UK Statistics Authority has made of the number of working days lost due to industrial action in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in each of the last five years. [303028]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of days of work lost due to industrial action in the *(a)* public sector and *(b)* private sector in each of the last five years. (303028)

The Office for National Statistics compiles monthly labour disputes statistics for the UK. They exclude disputes that do not result in a stoppage of work, and stoppages involving fewer than ten workers or lasting less than one day, unless the total number of working days lost in the dispute is 100 or more.

The following table provides estimates of working days lost in the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008.

Period	*Working days lost—Public sector (thousands)*	*Working days lost—Private sector (thousands)*
2004	742	163
2005	99	59
2006	656	98
2007	1,002	39
2008	711	48

Population: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the projected population of Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each of the next five years. [302924]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the estimate of the projected population of Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in the next five years. (302924)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces population estimates and population projections for all local authority areas but only produces population estimates for parliamentary constituencies that are not coterminous with local authority boundaries. I am therefore unable to provide the figures you requested for Mid-Bedfordshire constituency.

For your information the table below shows the projected population for mid-2010 to mid-2014 for the three local authorities which covered the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in 2008 when these projections were produced.

Thousand

Local authority	*Mid-2010*	*Mid-2011*	*Mid-2012*	*Mid-2013*	*Mid-2014*
Bedford	162	164	166	168	169
Mid Bedfordshire	142	145	147	150	152
South Bedfordshire	121	123	124	125	126

Telecommunications: Databases

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been paid by her Department to EADS for the development of technology to store and monitor internet communications data *(a)* in total and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [30[illegible]296]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office financial systems show that no payments have been made to EADS during the past eight financial years. An exercise to provide information prior to 2001-02 would incur disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what percentage of children were living in workless households in each local education authority area in Tyne and Wear in each year from 1999 to 2009. [302456]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many and what percentage of children were living in workless households in each local education authority area in Tyne and Wear in each year from 1999 to 2009. (302456)

Information at local education authority level comes from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset, which is only available from 2004 to 2008. The number and percentage of children living in workless households for January to December for each year are shown in table 1.

Figures for children in households are based on children aged under 16 years old living in working-age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age; that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. Table 2 shows the percentage and confidence intervals for January to December 2008. This is to give an indication as to the accuracy of the most recent estimates, and how much they could vary if taken from a different sample. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent. certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children[1] in workless[2] households in local education authorities in Tyne and Wear January to December for each year 2004 to 2008

Thousands and Percentages

	Children in workless households					Percentage of children in workless households				
Local education authorities	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Gateshead	6	7	9	7	6	17.7	20.4	26.1	20.6	17.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	11	13	14	9	11	25.4	26.9	29.6	21.8	25.7
North Tyneside	6	5	4	5	7	14.4	15.1	13.1	18.2	22.7
South Tyneside	8	6	7	6	6	27.4	23.5	25.3	25.1	22.4
Sunderland	9	8	10	9	11	17.7	16.2	19.5	21.7	22.0

[1] Children under 16.

[2] Workless household is a working-age household where no one aged 16 or over is working.

Table 2: Percentage of children[1] in workless[2] households with 95 per cent. confidence intervals[3] January to December 2008

Percentages

Local education authorities	*2008*	*Lower CI*	*Upper CI*
Gateshead	17.0	11.2	22.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	25.7	18.4	32.9
North Tyneside	22.7	15.3	30.1
South Tyneside	22.4	16.1	28.8
Sunderland	22.0	15.5	28.5

[1] Children under 16.

[2] Workless household is a working-age household where no one aged 16 or over is working.

[3] 95 per cent. confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provisions exist for the punishment of parents in respect of breaches of anti social behaviour orders by their children. [302835]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Plans to legislate for mandatory parenting orders when 10 to 15-year-olds breach their ASBO are contained in the Crime and Security Bill. Parenting orders are court-based orders that can be applied for by a range of different agencies in different circumstances. They are intended for parents who are unwilling to engage with voluntary measures. An order will specify requirements for the parent to comply with, for example, to counselling or guidance sessions for a period of up to three months. They may also have conditions imposed on them such as attending meetings with teachers at their child's school, ensuring their child does not visit a particular place unsupervised or ensuring their child is at home at particular times. These conditions can last for a period up to 12 months. A parent/carer can be prosecuted for failing to keep the requirements of the order. A parenting order is a civil order but breach of the order is an offence punishable by a fine of up to £1,000.

Children: Day Care

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of registered childminders were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each local authority area in the South East in each year since 1997. [301364]

Dawn Primarolo: The Childcare and Early Years Providers survey provides estimates of the proportion of childminders[1] who are male and female in England from 1998 until 2008. These data are not available for years prior to 1998. Estimates can be provided of the number and proportion of male and female childminders by region for 2006 to 2008, however these data are not available at the local authority level, or for earlier years. Table 1 provides the number and proportion of male and female childminders in England from 1998 until 2008. Table 2 provides the number and proportion of male and female childminders in the south-east in 2006 to 2008.

[1] The data provided refer to the number and proportion of working childminders. Childminders who were registered but not working are not included.

Table 1: Sex of childminders in England

	Male childminders		Female childminders	
	Proportion of childminders (Percentage)	*Number of male childminders (Percentage)*	*Proportion of childminders (Percentage)*	*Number of female childminders*
1998	0.5	470	99	92,400
2001	1	400	99	71,900
2003	1	800	99	72,100
2005	2	<1,000	98	56,700
2006	2	1,200	98	56,700
2007	1	620	99	59,200
2008	2	900	98	55,300

Table 2: Sex of childminders in the South East

	Male childminders		Female childminders	
	Proportion of childminders (Percentage)	*Number of male childminders*	*Proportion of childminders (Percentage)*	*Number of female childminders*
2006	2	200	98	10,800
2007	1	100	99	11,200
2008	3	300	97	10,600

Class Sizes

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and (ii) the East of England was in each year since 1997. [302915]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary¹ and state-funded secondary¹ ² schools: Classes as taught³: As at January each year: In Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and East of England Government office region

	Average class size			
	Mid-Bedfordshire		*East of England*	
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
1997	26.1	22.1	26.9	21.3
1998	25.7	22.4	27.2	21.2
1999	26.0	23.0	27.1	21.3
2000	25.7	23.2	26.8	21.7
2001	24.4	22.9	26.4	21.8
2002	24.1	22.3	26.1	21.6
2003	24.6	21.8	26.1	21.6
2004	23.9	22.1	26.2	21.7
2005	24.1	22.2	26.2	21.7
2006	24.7	21.0	26.2	21.5
2007	24.5	21.3	26.1	21.3
2008	23.9	21.3	26.1	21.1
2009	24.0	21.6	26.2	20.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census.
Source:
School Census

Classroom Assistants: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in *(a)* maintained nurseries, *(b)* primary schools, *(c)* secondary schools, *(d)* special schools and *(e)* pupil referral units in each education authority in the north-east region in each January from 2005 to 2009. [302461]

Mr. Coaker: The following tables provide the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in each local authority in the North East Government Office Region, in each January from 2005 to 2009 broken down by the phase of education.

Full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools¹ by phase, coverage: North East Government Office Region, years: January 2005 to 2009

	Nursery				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	150	120	150	140	150
Gateshead	*	*	*	*	*
Newcastle upon Tyne	50	40	50	20	50
North Tyneside	10	*	*	*	*
South Tyneside	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	50	50	40	40	50
Hartlepool	*	*	*	*	*
Middlesbrough	*	*	*	*	*
Redcar and Cleveland	*	*	*	*	*
Stockton-on-Tees	*	*	*	*	*
Durham	10	20	40	40	50
Darlington	10	10	10	10	*
Northumberland	*	*	*	*	*

	Primary				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	4,040	4,100	4,550	5,000	5,150
Gateshead	320	340	370	390	390
Newcastle upon Tyne	400	320	360	370	370
North Tyneside	180	250	260	310	260
South Tyneside	270	280	270	290	320
Sunderland	540	540	640	600	630
Hartlepool	190	180	170	200	200
Middlesbrough	340	330	360	390	420
Redcar and Cleveland	150	220	210	290	290
Stockton-on-Tees	210	240	270	360	370
Durham	730	740	810	900	940
Darlington	160	190	220	250	220
Northumberland	520	550	600	620	660

	Secondary				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	1,250	1,400	1,500	1,650	1,800
Gateshead	40	50	50	40	60
Newcastle upon Tyne	110	160	170	170	210
North Tyneside	70	90	100	120	110
South Tyneside	90	100	70	90	80
Sunderland	110	140	150	140	150
Hartlepool	100	90	90	90	100
Middlesbrough	60	70	70	70	100
Redcar and Cleveland	60	90	110	130	140
Stockton-on-Tees	80	100	100	130	140
Durham	160	170	200	200	210
Darlington	50	40	60	50	50
Northumberland	310	300	410	420	440

	Special				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	130	140	1,050	1,050	1,170
Gateshead	10	10	90	80	90
Newcastle upon Tyne	10	10	110	100	110
North Tyneside	10	10	110	90	110
South Tyneside	20	10	70	70	70
Sunderland	10	10	120	140	150
Hartlepool	*	10	20	30	30
Middlesbrough	50	30	110	90	110
Redcar and Cleveland	10	20	10	90	100
Stockton-on-Tees	10	10	90	80	100
Durham	10	10	170	160	180
Darlington	10	10	40	40	40

	Special				
	2005	2006	2007[1]	2008	2009
Northumberland	*	*	100	110	120

	PRU				
	2005	2006	2007[1]	2008	2009
North East	670	1,010	130	130	150
Gateshead	80	90	10	*	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	90	100	10	10	10
North Tyneside	20	40	*	*	*
South Tyneside	60	70	20	[illegible]	10
Sunderland	100	130	10	10	10
Hartlepool	20	40	10	10	*
Middlesbrough	100	90	20	20	10
Redcar and Cleveland	20	50	10	20	10
Stockton-on-Tees	70	70	10	10	10
Durham	100	160	10	20	20
Darlington	40	40	10	10	20
Northumberland	60	90	*	*	*

	Total all schools				
	2005	2006	2007[1]	2008	2009
North East	6,430	6,570	7,450	8,030	8,400
Gateshead	490	400	520	510	550
Newcastle upon Tyne	700	620	700	670	720
North Tyneside	290	430	470	520	400
South Tyneside	440	470	440	460	500
Sunderland	610	850	960	1,020	900
Hartlepool	300	310	300	340	420
Middlesbrough	530	520	570	580	600
Redcar and Cleveland	240	300	350	520	530
Stockton-on-Tees	300	430	470	570	610
Durham	1,060	1,100	1,220	1,280	1,370
Darlington	270	300	340	350	320
Northumberland	910	1,040	1,120	1,150	1,230

[1] Excludes CTCs and Academies.

* = Zero or less than 5.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the energy *(a)* rating and *(b)* band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each of the last three years. [illegible]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) publishes central Government departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings (building by building level) on their website accessible via the following link OGC- Display Energy Certificate data.

DEC reference numbers for each building can be used to view each advisory report accessible via the following link

https://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html

DECs were required from October 2008 onwards.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303593]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The DCSF has 21.5 full-time equivalent press officers employed by the DCSF permanently, which includes two part-time staff. There is one press officer on a fixed term contract of six months.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301850]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not measure hits but rather measures visitors as more meaningful. The following table outlines visitors for complete months from January 2008.

2008	Visitors
January	756,353
February	626,914
March	612,206
April	566,149
May	553,952
June	875,664
July	803,787
August	446,029
September	693,214
October	697,840
November	623,544
December	472,978
Total	7,728,630
2009	
January	688,960
February	625,025
March	769,199
April	639,336
May	699,345
June	841,214
July	799,683
August	617,091
September	932,359
October	976,643
Total	7,588,855

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301204]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Secretary of State last travelled by train in the course of his official duties on Thursday 26 November.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department it publishes. [302339]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children, Schools and Families publishes all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Code of Practice for Official Statistics' and the 'National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics'.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost to his Department of the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive is. [303198]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: The Department only uses agency workers where there is a clear business need and usually to provide short term cover for posts. Given this, the Department does not forecast how many agency workers it will recruit in future years and, therefore, it is not possible to provide information on any additional costs.

Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance he has issued to *(a)* early years providers, *(b)* primary schools and *(c)* secondary schools on meeting the needs of multiple-birth children; [302516]

(2) what guidance he has issued to schools on involving parents of multiple-birth children in decisions on which classes their children should be in. [302515]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The school admissions code, mandatory for maintained primary and secondary schools, addresses the needs of children from multiple births in the school admission process. It states that admission authorities should take children from multiple births' needs into account when deciding which admissions oversubscription criteria will be used.

The chief schools adjudicator recently reported to the Secretary of State on the admission of twins and children from multiple births. He recommended that the list of "excepted pupils" in the class size regulations be extended to include twins and multiple birth children, to ensure that they can be placed in the same infant school.

He also recommended that all admission authorities must be required to consult on, and publish arrangements for the admission of twins and children from multiple births as part of their overall admissions consultation. The Secretary of State accepted these proposals and following a public consultation will seek to amend the school admissions code at the next opportunity.

The School Admissions Code does not apply to early years providers and no guidance on children from multiple births has been issued to such settings.

It is up to individual schools to determine which classes children from multiple births should be placed in.

Families

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the potential effects on the incidence of family breakdown of trends in the level of geographical mobility. [302033]

Dawn Primarolo: We are not aware of evidence specifically linking trends in geographical mobility to the incidence of relationship breakdown in families. However, in the context of the planned Families and Relationships Green Paper, the Department has considered the factors which can influence family relationships and how families can be supported to sustain loving and resilient relationships.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects constituency-level data on GCSE and equivalent results for the 2008-09 academic year to be published. [301876]

Mr. Coaker: The Department intends to publish the parliamentary constituency-level data on GCSE and equivalent results for the year 2008-09 approximately three to four weeks after the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables, which are scheduled for publication in January 2010.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his press release of 16 November 2009, Put children and young people at the heart of the care system, what the evidential basis is for the statement that the number of young people achieving good GCSEs has doubled in the last two years. [303657]

Dawn Primarolo: We have checked the care matters ministerial stocktake report and press notice. The report correctly said:

"In 2008 14 per cent. of children in care achieved 5 A*-C at GCSE (2008)—double the figure of 7 per cent. in 2000". But the press notice included an error which said:

"In just two years the number of young people achieving good GCSEs has doubled".

We have corrected the press release online.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils obtained level two or above in key stage 1 *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics tests in 2005 but did not obtain level four or above in key stage 2 tests in 2009. [301963]

Mr. Coaker: There were no data collected for 2005 key stage 1 tests in English or mathematics; however Teacher Assessment (TA) data were collected for key stage 1 in 2005. Information showing the transition from key stage 1 attainment, based on TA data, to key stage 2 attainment based on test data will be available in table 6 of the forthcoming Statistical First Release: National Curriculum Assessment at key stage 2 in England 2008/09 (Revised). This will be published on 1 December 2009.

Ofsted: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of Ofsted in each year from 2005-06 to 2012-13; how much of the expenditure in each year *(a)* has been and *(b)* is to be spent on child protection; and if he will make a statement. [300695]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated November 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response. There is an element of work related to child protection in most areas of Ofsted's remit. It is not possible to analyse these costs separately.

The cost to the public purse of Ofsted for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 is detailed below:

		£ million
2005-06	Actual	219
2006-07	Actual	215
2007-08	Actual	213
2008-09	Actual	208
2009-10	Budget	200

Budgets for the years subsequent to 2009-10 have not yet been set.

Please note that the cost for 2005-06 relates to the work of the former Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education. The costs for subsequent years are those for the new Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, with its expanded remit.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Outdoor Education

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average number of field trips made by students in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education in each of the last 10 years. [303026]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not made an estimate of field trips made by students in primary and secondary education in each of the last 10 years. Schools are expected to offer their students opportunities for fieldwork as part of subjects they are studying, for example science and geography, or through extra curricular activities under the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much capital funding for nursery provision has been allocated to *(a)* Poole borough council, *(b)* Bournemouth borough council and *(c)* Dorset county council in the last three years; [302160]

(2) how much revenue nursery grant funding has been allocated to *(a)* Poole borough council, *(b)* Bournemouth borough council and *(c)* Dorset county council in each of the last three years; and what other sources of revenue funding for early years activities have been made available to each council in each such year. [302161]

Dawn Primarolo: Nursery Grant funding as was, is now covered by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is given to local authorities to fund the wide range of needs of pupils aged three to 15.

The DSG is allocated on the basis of an amount per pupil to meet all that needs to be funded. Local authorities are then responsible for deciding how best to apportion the overall grant to meet their local objectives. It is therefore not possible to disaggregate the amount allocated to nursery provision.

The Department provides a number of other grants to local authorities to fund the wider policies of Early Years provision. The Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) supports the delivery of the Government's 10-Year Strategy for Childcare and the goals in the Children's Plan, by providing funding: for Sure Start children's centres; for the Graduate Leader Fund; to improve the quality of and access to learning environments in early years settings; and to transform short break services for disabled children, among other things.

Details of the amounts allocated to the various strands of the SSEYCG are shown in the following table. Many of the strands are not individually ring-fenced, and similarly to the DSG, local authorities are responsible for apportioning the grant to best meet local needs.

Lastly the Standard's Fund includes funding to extend and increase the flexibility of the entitlement for three and four-year-olds to free child care. The local authorities in question received an allocation for this in 2009-10, details of which are also shown in the table.

			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
Grant	Strand	Classification	Bournemouth	Dorset	Poole	Bournemouth	Dorset	Poole	Bournemouth	Dorset	Poole
Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant	Children's Centres	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,676,318	2,770,062	1,018,560	2,043,172	1,702,219	1,301,840
	Sufficiency and Access	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	391,667	720,426	296,946	387,194	742,030	[illegible]
	Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	404,941	746,629	[illegible]	436,074	846,851	190,216

			2007-08			*2008-09*			*2009-10*		
Grant	*Strand*	*Classification*	*Bournemouth*	*Dorset*	*Poole*	*Bournemouth*	*Dorset*	*Poole*	*Bournemouth*	*Dorset*	*Poole*
	Graduate Leader Fund	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	212,590	435,959	137,871	294,993	582,250	177,502
	Every Child a Talker	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	107,418	0	0
	Buddying	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Childcare Take Up BME	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0
	National Indicator 118	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0
	Sure Start Local Programmes	Revenue	630,426	660,774	0	496,402	625,867	0	453,148	453,148	0
	Disabled Children's Access to Childcare	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Two Year Old Early Learning Pilot	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	135,572	165,836	133,050
	0-7 Year Old Partnership Pilot	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Work Focused Services	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0
	Achievement for All	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0
	Aiming High for Disabled Children	Revenue	15,000	15,000	15,000	122,500	136,300	115,500	357,300	1,047,500	335,400
	Extended Schools	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	136,059	400,757	92,458	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Early Years Foundation Stage (PVI)	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	15,620	41,223	15,362	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Social and Emotional Aspects of Development	Revenue	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	19,707	52,523	14,031	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Main Revenue	Revenue	2,071,040	3,627,762	1,365,067	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Transformation Fund	Revenue	236,408	509,640	197,905	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Children's Centres	Capital	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	179,408	667,272	289,943	372,158	1,402,465	586,784
	Childcare Quality and Access	Capital	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	640,989	1,440,292	534,772	640,989	1,440,292	534,772
	Aiming High for Disabled Children	Capital	0	0	0	56,700	140,000	53,100	132,200	347,700	121,800
	Main Capital	Capital	2,050,968	3,555,642	1,994,757	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	SSEYCG Sub Total		4,990,642	8,377,818	3,572,729	4,312,816	8,440,250	2,856,570	5,352,118	10,730,280	3,909,218
Standard's Fund	Free Entitlement for Three and Four Year Olds	Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	187,014	659,735	148,256
	Total		4,990,642	8,377,818	3,572,729	4,312,816	8,440,250	2,856,570	5,539,132	11,390,015	4,057,474

[1] Indicates that grant strand was not available in a particular year.

Notes:

1. Main Revenue and Main Capital include children's centres and childcare sufficiency funding. However, it is not possible to disaggregate into individual strands for the 2007-08 financial year.
2. Under the terms and conditions of the Grant Aiming High for Disabled Children, Extended Schools, and Quality and Access capital funding can be used to deliver services to an age range wider than early years. The services delivered by children's centres and local programmes may also link with other policy areas with wider age ranges.

Primary Education: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on proposed primary school closures in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency. [302917]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: None. School place planning is the statutory responsibility of individual local authorities. This includes making sure there are sufficient school places, and also removing surplus places when required. To facilitate this local authorities have the power to propose the closure of maintained schools.

Where local authorities propose to make any changes to local school provision, including closures, they must follow a statutory process, which is then decided under established local decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct role in the process.

Primary Education: Greater London

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to announce allocation of funding to primary schools in the London boroughs of *(a)* Richmond and *(b)* Kingston upon Thames in respect of the September 2010 intake. [303018]

Mr. Coaker: We announced on 30 November 2009 the allocation of £271 million of capital funding for the provision of additional primary places by 2011, to 34 authorities including both Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames. Richmond is allocated £3.3 million and Kingston £8.2 million. This will enable these authorities to start projects to provide additional permanent places for 2010 and beyond. This allocation is in addition to over £1.2 billion allocated nationally from 2008-11, to support the provision of additional school places.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to forecast and plan to provide school places where they are needed. The Government allocate capital funding to support their provision, based on local authority forecasts. However, we accept that in some areas there have recently been local demographic and other pressures which have made this unusually difficult. Therefore, in July, we invited all authorities which are experiencing exceptionally high and unpredicted increase in demand for additional primary school places to apply for additional funding.

Initially, we secured £200 million for this need, but when evaluating applications, and from discussions with authorities and representative bodies, we concluded that a larger sum, and more flexibility in our eligibility and allocation criteria, would provide appropriate support to a wide range of the neediest authorities.

The Department does not allocate revenue money directly to schools. Local authorities need to allocate budgets to schools for the 2010-11 financial year before the 31 March 2010.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority have a percentage of surplus places of at least 25; and if he will make a statement. [303062]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places through an annual survey. The most recent data available relate to the position at January 2008.

The following table shows the number of schools in each local education authority which have a percentage of surplus places of 25 or above.

LA	*Number of primary schools with 25 per cent. or more surplus*	*Number of secondary schools with 25 per cent. or more surplus*	*Total*
Blackpool	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Westminster	0	0	0
Camden	1	0	1
Darlington	1	0	1
Sutton	1	0	1
Ealing	2	0	2
Haringey	2	0	2
Lambeth	2	0	2
Luton	2	0	2
Richmond upon Thames	1	1	2
Slough	2	0	2
Southend-on-Sea	1	1	2
Brent	2	1	3
Islington	3	0	3
Kensington and Chelsea	3	0	3
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	3
St. Helens	2	1	3
Waltham Forest	2	1	3
Barking and Dagenham	4	0	4
Dudley	2	2	4
Enfield	3	1	4
Hartlepool	3	1	4
Redbridge	3	1	4
Torbay	3	1	4
Barnsley	5	0	5
Blackburn with Darwen	4	1	5
Bracknell Forest	4	1	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	2	5
Hounslow	5	0	5
Merton	5	0	5
Poole	4	1	5
Telford and Wrekin	5	0	5
Wandsworth	3	2	5
Bexley	4	2	6
Bournemouth	5	1	6
Tameside	5	1	6
Tower Hamlets	6	0	6
Wokingham	5	1	6
Hackney	5	2	7
Harrow	7	0	7
Kingston upon Hull; City of	5	2	7
North Somerset	7	0	7
Thurrock	7	0	7
West Berkshire	7	0	7

LA	Number of primary schools with 25 per cent. or more surplus	Number of secondary schools with 25 per cent. or more surplus	Total
Windsor and Maidenhead	6	1	7
York	6	1	7
Barnet	6	2	8
Brighton and Hove	7	1	8
Bury	6	2	8
Coventry	6	2	8
Croydon	5	3	8
Newham	7	1	8
Oldham	7	1	8
Peterborough	6	2	8
Reading	6	2	8
Rochdale	6	2	8
Rutland	8	0	8
Swindon	8	0	8
Wigan	6	2	8
Bolton	5	4	9
Havering	8	1	9
Leicester	7	2	9
Redcar and Cleveland	7	2	9
Halton	8	2	10
Rotherham	10	0	10
Stockton-on-Tees	7	3	10
Walsall	9	1	10
Greenwich	10	1	11
Lewisham	10	1	11
Trafford	9	2	11
North Lincolnshire	10	2	12
Solihull	12	0	12
Stockport	12	0	12
Stoke-on-Trent	9	3	12
Bradford	11	2	13
Calderdale	12	1	13
Gateshead	11	2	13
Hillingdon	8	5	13
North East Lincolnshire	9	4	13
Southwark	12	1	13
Bath and North East Somerset	12	2	14
Derby	13	1	14
South Tyneside	13	1	14
Medway	14	1	15
Middlesbrough	14	1	15
Newcastle upon Tyne	15	0	15
Portsmouth	13	2	15
Warrington	14	1	15
Plymouth	15	1	16
Sandwell	15	1	16
Bristol; City of	12	6	18
Bromley	18	0	18
Manchester	16	3	19
Sefton	14	5	19
Sheffield	18	1	19
Herefordshire	19	1	20
South Gloucestershire	17	3	20
Southampton	13	7	20
Sunderland	16	4	20
Salford	19	2	21
Leeds	20	2	22
North Tyneside	20	2	22
Wolverhampton	20	3	23
Doncaster	22	2	24
East Sussex	22	2	24
Milton Keynes	21	3	24
Knowsley	22	4	26
East Riding of Yorkshire	27	0	27
Isle of Wight	22	5	27
Oxfordshire	25	3	28
Wirral	25	4	29
Kirklees	24	6	30
Worcestershire	26	4	30
Warwickshire	26	5	31
Liverpool	28	4	32
Nottingham	27	7	34
Wakefield	33	1	34
Cambridgeshire	33	3	36
Shropshire	35	1	36
Bedfordshire	29	8	37
Surrey	31	6	37
Devon	36	2	38
West Sussex	33	5	38
Buckinghamshire	37	2	39
Dorset	36	4	40
Somerset	38	2	40
Birmingham	38	3	41
Cornwall	45	2	47
Leicestershire	42	5	47
Lincolnshire	46	3	49
Northamptonshire	48	1	49
Cumbria	43	9	52
Wiltshire	47	5	52
Gloucestershire	49	6	55
Cheshire	52	6	58
Kent	50	9	59
Durham	55	7	62
Staffordshire	55	7	62
Nottinghamshire	60	6	66
Northumberland	57	14	71
Derbyshire	70	4	74
Hampshire	64	12	76
Hertfordshire	67	13	80
Suffolk	74	12	86
Norfolk	83	4	87
Essex	83	11	94
North Yorkshire	110	8	118
Lancashire	123	12	135

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local authorities applied for targeted capital funds for surplus place removal following his Department's letter to directors of children's services on 16 June 2008; [303063]

(2) which local authorities received targeted capital funds for surplus place removal since June 2008; how much each such local authority received for that purpose; and if he will make a statement. [303064]

Mr. Coaker: Seven authorities applied and all received an award.

The amount awarded under the targeted capital funds for surplus place removal to authorities is set out in the following table.

Local authority	*Allocation (£)*
Derbyshire	475,000
Hampshire	898,000
Knowsley	3,825,000
Suffolk	2,165,000
Bristol	2,100,350
Shropshire	562,320
Lancashire	600,000
Total	10,625,670

Schools: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response he has received from North East Lincolnshire local authority in respect of his proposal to bring forward from 2010-11 to the current financial year capital funding for building schools; and what proportion of the available funding North East Lincolnshire local authority has taken up. [301767]

Mr. Coaker: North East Lincolnshire bid for, and is taking up, an advance of £775,000 Primary Programme funding from 2010-11 in the current financial year. If the local authority and Voluntary Aided schools had applied for the maximum available advances, they would have received advances of £5,378 for Primary Capital, £1,979 for Modernisation, and £212,000 in respect of Voluntary Aided schools.

In common with all other authorities, all maintained schools in North East Lincolnshire were allocated a Devolved Formula Capital advance calculated as 40 per cent. of the estimated 2010-11 allocation. In the case of the local authority and Voluntary Aided schools, this amounted to £1,284.

Schools: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Enfield have been rebuilt or refurbished since 1997; [303365]

(2) what plans he has to rebuild and refurbish secondary schools in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Enfield. [303366]

Mr. Coaker: According to information received from the London borough of Enfield two new schools have been built in Enfield North: Keys Meadow primary school (2003) and the Oasis Academy (2007). Lee Valley high school was rebuilt in 2005. A further three new schools have been built in the rest of the borough: West Grove primary school (1998), Starks Field primary school (2004) and Highlands secondary school (2000). Tottenham Infant school was rebuilt in 2004.

Enfield entered the Building Schools for the Future programme in autumn 2008. It is for Enfield to determine the pattern of school builds in consultation with the Department, Partnerships for Schools and the local community. Their strategy for change identifies five initial school projects—Gladys Aylward, Edmonton County, Broomfield, Turin Grove and the Eldon Road Pupil Referral Unit.

The Oasis Academy Hadley, that replaced Albany school, opened in September 2009 and will move into new state-of-the art buildings in 2012.

Schools: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many computers with broadband access there are in each school in Norwich North constituency; and what the average pupil/computer ratio is in each such school. [301706]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Special Educational Needs

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties there are in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England. [302919]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[3]: Number of pupils[4] with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties[5]: In Mid-Bedfordshire constituency, East of England Government office region and England—January 2009

	Mid-Bedfordshire			*East of England*			*England*		
	Maintained primary	*State funded secondary*	*All special*	*Maintained primary*	*State funded secondary*	*All special*	*Maintained primary*	*State funded secondary*	*All special*
2009	60	170	0	6,550	9,210	990	58,930	82,270	13,240

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils only.

[5] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained special schools he has visited since his appointment; and on what date each visit took place. [303587]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has visited the following maintained special schools since his appointment:

Date	*Schools visited*
3 April 2008	Michael Tippett school, London
23 October 2008	Lyndale school, Wirral
11 May 2009	Two Rivers high school, Tamworth
10 September 2009	Jack Tizard school, London

In addition, the Secretary of State has visited the Treehouse school in Haringey, a non-maintained special school specialising in providing education and support for children with autism.

The Secretary of State has also visited special schools in his capacity as constituency MP. In addition some of the mainstream schools he has visited also had excellent specialist units to support children with special educational needs.

Young People: Eating Disorders

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of young people with eating disorders for whom bullying has contributed to their illness. [302647]

Mr. Coaker: The DCSF does not have any specific estimate of the extent of eating disorders caused by bullying. However, we do know that bullying can destroy lives and impact negatively on young people's confidence, self-esteem, mental health, and social and emotional development, so it is important that young people who are suffering speak out.

Because of the effects of bullying, the DCSF has sent a strong message to all that bullying should not be tolerated in and outside of schools. To reinforce this message, we have given schools the powers to regulate the conduct of pupils, to put measures in place to promote good behaviour, respect for others and to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 December 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [303994]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government do not own any residential properties. The Fire Service College, an agency of the Department, currently owns 40 residential properties. 32 are currently occupied. One property has been vacant for more than six months.

English Partnerships: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments English Partnerships has made to Fleishman-Hillard in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [302206]

John Healey: No payments were made by the Homes and Communities Agency (as the successor body to English Partnerships) to Fleishman-Hilliard, in the last 12 months.

Floods: Cumbria

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications of the application of Bellwin formula for the recovery operations following the recent floods in Cumbria. [302146]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to supporting the local authorities and other local agencies who are doing such an excellent job to help those affected by these terrible events. We have quickly activated the Bellwin scheme, to provide emergency financial assistance to local authorities in the immediate aftermath of the floods. In recognition of the exceptional nature of the floods, the Bellwin scheme grant rate has been increased to 100 per cent. above threshold—instead of the usual 85 per cent.—scheme.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine whether facilities which are appurtenant exclusively to individual dwellings but which are separate hereditaments should be eligible for non-domestic rating. [303564]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Facilities which are appurtenant exclusively to individual dwellings cannot be separate hereditaments. To be appurtenant a facility must be within the curtilage of a dwelling. Therefore, if it is appurtenant and exclusive to the dwelling it will form part of the same hereditament.

Property Development: Floods

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes there are in *(a)* designated development sites in each region, *(b)* such sites situated on floodplains and *(c)* such sites in areas of significant flood risk. [303295]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the numbers of homes in designated development sites in each region, in such sites situated in floodplains and in such sites in significant flood risk areas is not available centrally.

Regeneration: Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central Government funding is available for regeneration projects and community building initiatives in *(a)* Thanet and *(b)* Dover district council area in 2009-10. [302135]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(i) Thanet district council (DC) area for 2009-10:

Within CLG's Area Based Grant, Thanet district council (DC) receive £132,647 for community cohesion, £258,000 for safer, stronger communities, and £1,598,807 from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

From the joint CLG/DCSF Empty Shops Initiative, Thanet receive £50,000.

From the joint DWP/CLG Future Jobs Fund, Thanet receive £773,500.

Within the Thanet DC area, the Margate Dreamland project has been awarded £3.7 million (up to 2011) from the DCSF Sea Change programme and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £548,000.

Thanet is a neighbourhood crime and justice pioneer area and receives Home Office funding of £75,000.

Kent county recently received an additional £64,000 for tackling antisocial behaviour. Thanet as a priority area for ASB are likely to benefit from this funding.

SEEDA: The figures provided are forecast expenditure by SEEDA for 2009-10 for Thanet—£1,584,000 total.

Turner Contemporary Art Gallery—£1,275,000.

Margate renewal delivery team (this provides support for the Margate Renewal Partnership)—£90,000

Eurokent Business Park, Broadstairs—£219,000.

(ii) For Dover DC Area for 2009-10

Within Area Based Grant, Dover DC receive £90,588 for community cohesion.

Within the Dover DC area, the Dover Castle refurbishment project has been awarded £3.85 million (up to 2011) from the DCSF Sea Change programme.

SEEDA—The figures provided are forecast expenditure by SEEDA for 2009-10 for Dover—£444,000 total

Dover Waterfront—£444,000.

(iii) Thanet and Dover will also benefit in regeneration and sustainable community terms from investment spent outside the boroughs in East Kent and beyond, such as the £40,000 SEEDA is investing in the Dover Rail Reconnection transport project.

Sheltered Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many almshouse residents are not in properties managed by registered social landlords; [303517]

(2) whether the rights of residents of almshouses which are not managed by registered social landlords differ from those resident in properties managed by registered social landlords. [303519]

Mr. Ian Austin: The National Association of Almshouses produces guidance for its members. The National Standards of Almshouse Management apply to all almshouses, regardless of whether they are properties of registered social landlords (RSLs). All RSLs in England are regulated by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and must comply with the TSA's regulatory code.

The number of almshouse residents who are not in properties managed by RSLs is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff have worked for the Tenant Services Authority on secondment from other organisations since its establishment; from which organisations the employees were seconded; and what the cost to the public purse of each secondment has been. [302806]

John Healey: Eight members of staff have worked for the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) on secondment from other organisations since its establishment. Three of these secondments are currently with the TSA. The organisations concerned are as follows:

Government Office for West Midlands
East Thames Housing
Homes and Communities Agency
LHA ASRA
Pinnacle PSG
Communities and Local Government
Financial Services Management Development Ltd.
Audit Commission

Given the number of secondments, publishing the cost to the public purse of each one could result in the identification of individual salary levels.

Vacant Land

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued to borough councils on preservation of green space when undertaking new developments. [303179]

Mr. Ian Austin: Guidance to local planning authorities on the provision and protection of open space is set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG 17) and in the companion guide Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Athletics: East of England

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many publicly maintained athletic tracks there are in each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary council area in the east of England. [303639]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

Local authority	*Number of tracks*
Babergh District	0
Basildon District	1
Bedford District	1
Braintree District	1
Breckland District	0
Brentwood District	1
Broadland District	0
Broxbourne District	0
Cambridge District	1
Castle Point District	1
Chelmsford District	2
City of Peterborough	2
Colchester District	1
Dacorum District	1
East Cambridgeshire District	0
East Hertfordshire District	1
Epping Forest District	0
Fenland District	0
Forest Heath District	1
Great Yarmouth District	1
Harlow District	1
Hertsmere District	0
Huntingdonshire District	2
Ipswich District	1
King's Lynn and West Norfolk District	1
Luton	1
Maldon District	0
Mid Bedfordshire District	1
Mid Suffolk District	0
North Hertfordshire district	0
North Norfolk District	0
Norwich District	2
Rochford District	0
South Bedfordshire District	0
South Cambridgeshire District	0
South Norfolk District	0
Southend-on-Sea	1
St. Albans District	2
St. Edmundsbury District	1
Stevenage District	1
Suffolk Coastal District	0
Tendring District	0
Three Rivers District	1
Thurrock	1
Uttlesford District	0
Watford District	1
Waveney District	0
Welwyn Hatfield District	1
Total	33

This information is supplied by Sport England with data from the Active Places website.

Holiday Accommodation: Farms

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of the monetary value to the economy of income generated by self-catering farm holiday accommodation in each of the last three years. [303361]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain is unable to provide the data requested, but has supplied the following figures for the annual value to domestic tourism of all overnight visits to farmhouses between 2006 and 2008.

	£ million
2006	174
2007	211
2008	141

In addition, I am also aware of the tourism industry's concerns about potential impact of the furnished holiday lettings rule changes on the self catering sector, am continuing to discuss this matter with the Treasury.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the consultation on entertainment licences for public venues with capacity for under 100 persons to be published. [303753]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We announced our intention to consult on an exemption for small live music events for audiences of no more than 100 people on 22 November and intend to publish the consultation before Christmas.

Museums and Galleries: Valuation

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to ask national museums to undertake a valuation of their collections. [304029]

Margaret Hodge: We have no plans to ask national museums to undertake a valuation of their collections.

Public Houses: Closures

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of pubs which have closed in each local authority area in England since 1 January 2008. [304190]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment does not identify the number of pubs in England and Wales, as there is no official or established definition of a pub which distinguishes it from other premises which sell alcohol. The statistics bulletin provides detail of the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises license or a club premises certificate. These figures apply not only to public houses, but also to other licensed premises such as hotels, bars, restaurants, off-licenses and convenience stores.

However, industry estimates for the number of public houses in England and Wales are available from the market research company Market and Business Development using data from the British Beer and Pub Association.

http://www.caterersearch.com/Articles/2008/10/06/53051/number-of-pubs-in-the-uk-industry-data.html

We are unable to assess the quality of these statistics as these are not official government statistics.

Public Libraries: Wirral

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials of his Department were employed on the recent inquiry into the provision of library services on the Wirral. [303974]

Margaret Hodge: The recent inquiry into the provision of library services on the Wirral was carried out by an independent consultant, Sue Charteris. A number of departmental officials were involved in supporting the work of the inquiry, for example, in providing advice to Ministers, providing legal advice and arranging for the publication of the report. This support was provided by existing staff from within existing resources.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on the recent inquiry into the provision of library services on the Wirral. [303975]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has spent approximately £80,000 on the recent inquiry into the provision of library services on the Wirral. This includes the cost of notifications placed in newspapers, consultant's fees, legal fees and the costs of staging the necessary oral hearings.

Sports: East of England

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many publicly maintained sports halls there are in each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary council area in the east of England. [303640]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

Local authority district	*Number of sports halls*
Babergh	17
Basildon	26
Bedford	50
Braintree	19
Breckland	21
Brentwood	17
Broadland	18
Broxbourne	14
Cambridge	26
Castle Point	15
Chelmsford	42
City of Peterborough	19
Colchester	34
Dacorum	29
East Cambridgeshire	16
East Hertfordshire	31
Epping Forest	17

Local authority district	*Number of sports halls*
Fenland	12
Forest Heath	8
Great Yarmouth	13
Harlow	19
Hertsmere	26
Huntingdonshire	28
Ipswich	31
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	23
Luton	34
Maldon	10
Mid Bedfordshire	27
Mid Suffolk	15
North Hertfordshire	24
North Norfolk	19
Norwich	20
Rochford	13
South Bedfordshire	25
South Cambridgeshire	23
South Norfolk	24
Southend-on-Sea	27
St. Albans	31
St. Edmundsbury	32
Stevenage	18
Suffolk Coastal	23
Tendring	14
Three Rivers	14
Thurrock	27
Uttlesford	15
Watford	13
Waveney	28
Welwyn Hatfield	22
Total	1066

This information is supplied by Sport England with data from the Active Places website.

Sports: Leisure

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated monetary value is of the capital assets of sports and leisure facilities in each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary council area in the Eastern region. [303759]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally in the manner requested; to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

Tourism: VAT

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consult representatives of the hospitality and tourism industry on the effect that the application of a reduced rate of value added tax would have on that sector. [303745]

Margaret Hodge: I have regular discussions with representatives from the Tourism Advisory Council and the Tourism Alliance and continue to work across government to represent the concerns of the tourism industry at the highest level.

The rate of value added tax is a matter for HM Treasury. I remain in discussion with the Treasury about the impact a reduced rate would have.

Visits Abroad

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* destination and *(b)* purpose was of each overseas visit by officials of his Department in 2008-09. [303669]

Mr. Simon: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts with his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [303086]

Dan Norris: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally the core-Department is not aware of any contracts with Capita Group plc. that have been cancelled before completion or that Capita Group plc. have been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since June 2001.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300675]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's policy is that official funds should not be used for departmental Christmas parties, and the Department has no plans to host any Christmas parties in 2009 using public funds. Department expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with principles set out in Managing Public Money and HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants of his Department plan to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen; how many will be travelling by air; and at what cost to the public purse. [302381]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 30 November 2009]*: The final detail of DEFRA's attendance at Copenhagen has not been finalised.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many external consultants work for his Department. [303228]

Dan Norris: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303099]

Dan Norris: Public contracts must be awarded on one of two bases—either the most economically advantageous offer from the point of view of DEFRA as the contracting authority, or the lowest price. Where the most economically advantageous offer is chosen as the basis, criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract must be used to make the contract award decision. The criteria that can be used include quality, price, technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, environmental characteristics, running costs, cost-effectiveness, after sales service, technical assistance, delivery date, delivery period and period of and for completion. This list is non-exhaustive and DEFRA as a contracting authority can choose other objective and non-discriminatory criteria linked to the subject matter of a contract to determine which offer is most economically advantageous. Criteria have to be built into the evaluation model.

DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The amount spent on any advertisement of tenders for Government contracts outside of advertisement in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) and on DEFRA's website is not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301497]

Dan Norris: There have been no known allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing reported by departmental staff since 6 June 2006.

Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the standards and core values set out the "Civil Service Code". The "Civil Service Code" also provides for civil servants to raise matters of concern with the independent Civil Service Commissioners if they do not receive what they consider to be a reasonable response following departmental internal procedures. The Commissioners will also consider taking a complaint direct. Further guidance on whistleblowing is set out in the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Directory of Civil Service Guidance".

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301845]

Dan Norris: The relevant information is as follows:

	Page impressions	*Unique visitors*
April 2008	17,219,705	437,374
May 2008	19,059,294	551,334
June 2008	16,454,860	557,730
July 2008	17,643,506	426,015
August 2008	14,862,117	358,731
September 2008	18,630,950	388,167
October 2008	19,025,729	448,669
November 2008	19,014,067	425,768
December 2008	15,693,164	334,668
January 2009	18,555,975	411,057
February 2009	16,659,464	400,119
March 2009	19,277,800	446,237
Total	214,096,691	5,185,891

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300627]

Dan Norris: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Any bonuses and incentives paid to consultants and contractors engaged by the Department would be subject to the provisions of Managing Public Money.

Departmental Public Consultation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on public consultations in the last two years. [303613]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has carried out more than 161 consultations in the last two years (81 in 2007, 80 in 2008). These consultations have been paper-based and online. The size and scope of the consultations varies widely and it would be possible to calculate the spend only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302973]

Huw Irranca-Davies: During the 2008-09 financial year, the Department provided office accommodation at the following annual cost:

(a) For special advisers: £44,930

(b) For press officers: £142,434.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date he last travelled by train in the course of his official duties. [301198]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State for Environment last travelled by train in the course of his official duties on 20 November when he visited Cumbria.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of jobs advertised by his Department in the last 12 months were online-only applications; and what provision his Department makes for those wishing to apply for jobs in his Department who do not have access to the internet. [301550]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and our Executive Agencies are increasingly introducing online elements to recruitment such as Occupational Personality Questionnaires. Online processes are also more efficient, especially for high volume recruitment. However, if asked we always make hard copy and e-mail versions available to applicants who are not able to use the online elements of our processes.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessor have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302700]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1455-56W.

Floods

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of homes flooded, *(b)* amount of damage caused by floods and *(c)* insured losses arising from floods in each of the last 10 years. [301294]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

We do not hold this information centrally.

Food: Waste

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the quantity of food wastage since the Waste and Resources Action Programme's 2007 report, "The food we waste". [302600]

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the monetary value of food *(a)* spoiled and *(b)* disposed of in each of the last six years. [303615]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme published the findings of new research into the quantity of household food and drink waste earlier this month. This revealed that 8.3 million tonnes of food and drink are thrown away by households each year, most of which (5.3 million tonnes) could have been consumed. This avoidable food and drink waste is worth £12 billion, costing on average around £480 for every household a year, increasing to £680 a year for households with children. If we stopped wasting all this avoidable food and drink it would save at least 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, equivalent to taking one in four cars off UK roads.

DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Programme has not commissioned any research on the quantity of food wastage in that time period. However, some evaluation of survey material on separately collected food waste has been undertaken through a research project examining municipal waste composition.

Fuel Oil

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the levying of a tax on the use of recovered fuel oil on the volume of fuel oils dumped illegally; and if he will make a statement. [303479]

Dan Norris: The Government consider that the application of duty on the use of recovered fuel oil should have no adverse affects on the volumes of illegally dumped fuel oils, as correct disposal of hazardous waste is a legal requirement. There are controls in place to prevent the illegal dumping of waste.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [301136]

Dan Norris: The core-Department's financial system records no contracts entered into with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

Landfill: Health Hazards

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* complaints, *(b)* court actions and *(c)* fines there were against landfill sites for problems related to (i) odours, (ii) water pollution, (iii) air pollution and (iv) human health impact in each region in each of the last 10 years; what the locations were of the sites in respect of which each fine was levied; and what the fine was in each case. [301292]

Dan Norris: The number of complaints made, court cases brought, and fines levied against landfill operators in each region for offences related to odour, water pollution and air pollution in each year since 2001 are listed in the following table. The Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System started in 2001. Interrogating systems which hold information prior to 2001 would incur disproportionate cost as the data was not collated centrally.

A more detailed breakdown, including the locations of the sites involved will be placed in the Library of the House.

		Number of incidents					
	Region	*Total number related to landfills*	*Air pollution-odour related*	*Air pollution-not odour related*	*Water pollution*	*Number of court cases*	*Total fines (£)*
2001	Anglian	60	28	19	3	3	20,000
	Midlands	71	48	14	5	3	3,000
	North East	96	35	25	6	0	0
	North West	762	332	378	9	2	13,000
	Southern	75	42	26	7	6	38,000
	South West	33	10	15	6	0	0
	Thames	31	16	13	3	0	0
2002	Anglian	77	49	23	5	3	75,000
	Midlands	124	51	27	10	1	1,250
	North East	116	49	14	14	0	0
	North West	445	360	82	10	3	31,000
	Southern	75	50	16	4	1	8,500
	South West	36	8	12	6	2	4,500
	Thames	56	19	22	8	0	0
2003	Anglian	54	31	20	3	1	15,000
	Midlands	104	57	28	5	5	12,500
	North East	98	45	16	8	2	5,500
	North West	155	93	45	6	3	12,000
	Southern	56	45	20	5	1	6,000
	South West	25	2	3	5	0	0
	Thames	51	27	20	2	0	0
2004	Anglian	65	56	26	2	0	0
	Midlands	103	47	42	10	5	42,000
	North East	121	40	35	13	1	2,000
	North West	109	68	47	4	2	20,000
	Southern	62	45	9	2	1	30,000
	South West	45	18	9	9	4	17,000
	Thames	67	48	36	1	1	10,000
2005	Anglian	76	44	20	3	0	0
	Midlands	57	28	26	10	2	42,000
	North East	93	46	32	4	3	2,000
	North West	78	51	22	5	2	8,000
	Southern	28	19	16	1	1	10,000
	South West	22	15	6	1	0	0
	Thames	42	32	27	3	0	0
2006	Anglian	73	47	20	4	2	47,500
	Midlands	43	12	18	7	1	4,000
	North East	41	13	9	3	4	28,800
	North West	41	25	14	0	0	0
	Southern	13	5	4	0	4	12,500
	South West	45	15	8	9	1	35,000

		Number of incidents					
	Region	*Total number related to landfills*	*Air pollution-odour related*	*Air pollution-not odour related*	*Water pollution*	*Number of court cases*	*Total fines (£)*
	Thames	37	13	6	7	1	0
2007	Anglian	60	32	13	8	11	41,000
	Midlands	51	24	21	8	0	0
	North East	72	28	25	5	3	22,000
	North West	28	18	10	4	0	0
	Southern	33	30	15	2	0	0
	South West	63	37	31	4	3	42,000
	Thames	36	18	14	5	9	38,249
2008	Anglian	51	32	8	4	2	13,000
	Midlands	51	24	18	5	1	16,000
	North East	117	73	46	8	4	4,000
	North West	17	10	6	2	0	0
	Southern	66	27	13	4	2	7,400
	South West	41	34	17	4	5	92,875
	Thames	39	31	12	3	1	20,000

Oils: Waste Disposal

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the economic viability of re-refining waste oils into base lubricating oils in the UK. [303973]

Dan Norris: Waste oil has a value and there continues to be a demand for it to be processed for energy recovery uses. If the price obtainable for waste oil for these uses reduces, this could stimulate investment in regeneration of lubricants from waste oil. Informal discussions with the sector indicate that proposed investors in regeneration continue to watch the market situation in the UK and greater re-refining remains a possibility.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of oils was consigned for processing as waste in each year since 2001; to which *(a)* facilities and *(b)* companies such oils were consigned for processing in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [303980]

Dan Norris: A copy of the data requested will be placed in the Library of the House.

Waste Disposal: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure from the public purse on *(a)* anaerobic digestion and *(b)* composting of waste was in each of the last three years; what it is expected to be in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [303455]

Dan Norris: The figures for capital spend in England on anaerobic digestion and composting of waste from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Bio-energy Capital Grant Scheme and for future spend on DEFRA's Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration Programme and the Organics Capital Grant Programme are set out as follows.

Bio-energy capital grant scheme

	£
2006-07	0
2007-08	479,521
2008-09	37,500
Projected spend for next three years	
2009-10	80,000
2010-11	20,000

Anaerobic digestion demonstration programme

	£
2009-10	6,505,101
2010-11	3,289,614

Organics capital grant programme

	£
2009-10	2,535,206
2010-11	293,149

The following amounts have yet to be committed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which administers the Organics Capital Grant Programme on behalf of DEFRA. This provides capital support for both anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting. WRAP is not yet in a position to say how these resources will be split between the two technologies.

	£
2009-10	1,703,803
2010-11	8,281,247

Anaerobic digestion projects will also be eligible to bid for the upcoming round six of the Bio-energy Capital Grant Scheme. This may result in additional resources being granted to anaerobic digestion projects.

DEFRA is also making funding available for anaerobic digestion through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The Regional Development Agencies that deliver the socio-economic elements of the RDPE are looking to fund anaerobic digestion projects but are not yet able to say what the level of expenditure will be on these projects over the next three years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) on how many occasions the working party established to develop guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland has met in each of the last five years; and if he will publish the minutes of each such meeting; [303458]

(2) what recent representations he has received from Northern Ireland on the law on abortion; [303459]

(3) how many meetings he has had with *(a)* the Minister of Health of the Northern Ireland Executive, *(b)* members of the medical profession and *(c)* others in relation to abortion in Northern Ireland. [303460]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not received any requests for meetings to discuss this matter from either the Northern Ireland Minister of Health or members of the medical profession. A delegation of hon. Members met with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 5 March 2009 to discuss these issues, and the Department also received a number of representations during the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. From time to time the NIO receive letters from members of the public and organisations both supporting and opposing changes to the law on abortion in Northern Ireland.

I understand that the working group the hon. Member refers to was set up by the devolved administration in Northern Ireland. The Department was not represented on that group and so is not aware of its meeting schedule nor has it any access to its minutes.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303161]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, does not record information on how many occasions an organisation tenders for a contract therefore this question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Office has no record of any contracts awarded to Capita Group plc during the last five years.

The information provided is based on contracts which have been conducted through the Department of Finance and Personnel's Central Procurement Directorate since November 2003.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303135]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, in determining the award of contracts, uses the criteria that the most economically advantageous contract which delivers the best value for money to the Department is selected.

The Northern Ireland Office does not record information on the expenditure incurred on advertising tenders.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people with a disability were employed in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years. [303471]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides information on the number of staff employed in *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and *(b)* its agencies who have declared a disability. Figures for 2007 are not available.

	Number	
	Core	*Agency*
2008	53	17
2009	57	16

The NIO does not hold this information for its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). This is an operational matter for each of the NIO's executive NDPBs, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives. Details of the NIO's NDPBs can be found on page seven of the NIO 2009 Departmental Report at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2009.pdf

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09. [301014]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not record expenditure under these headings. However, the total costs paid by the NIO, including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPB's, to florists and nurseries in 2008-09 was £27,980.

Flowers and pot plants are purchased when the NIO hosts official events and receptions. During this period, the Department hosted a wide range of official events at Hillsborough Castle, which included receptions for military personnel and their families on return from Afghanistan, Iraq and other foreign postings; Royal Garden Parties and individual visits by members of the Royal family; receptions for local civic and community leaders; and other occasions including a number of visits by foreign dignitaries and events for charities such the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

These figures also include flowers purchased for events which are held in Hillsborough Castle on behalf of other parties. Although the NIO does not charge these external customers directly for the cost of flowers, provision is included within a facility hire charge.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many young people in each ward in Northern Ireland have been helped into work under the New Deal programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each year since the introduction of the New Deal. [302355]

Paul Goggins: The operation of programmes aimed at supporting people into employment in Northern Ireland, including New Deal and the Steps to Work programme which replaced it, are the responsibility of the devolved Administration.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether any allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Office by its staff since 6 June 2006. [302941]

The Prime Minister: No.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Trinidad with *(a)* his counterpart and *(b)* the President of (i) India and (ii) Pakistan on the nuclear weapons capability of that country; and whether he discussed the matter of nuclear disarmament with representatives of other governments at that meeting. [302991]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 113WS.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by the Law Officers' Departments since 1 May 2008. [303256]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have not sponsored any legislation during the relevant period.

Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions there were for offences related to domestic abuse in each of the last three years. [304218]

The Solicitor-General: The number of defendants prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service for offences of domestic violence was as follows:

	Number
2006-07	57,361
2007-08	63,819
2008-09	67,094

The above figures comprise offences of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who are, or have been, intimate partners for family members.

The increase in volumes over the three-year period is believed to reflect the greater willingness of victims of domestic violence to come forward and report offences to the police, as well as improvements in CPS record keeping.

Surveillance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Solicitor-General how many covert human intelligence sources the Serious Fraud Office has recruited in each year since 2000. [303143]

The Solicitor-General: Owing to operational reasons, the Serious Fraud Office is unable to confirm or deny the number of covert human intelligence sources recruited since 2000.

TRANSPORT

Railway Car Park Charges

12. **Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on the levels of car park charges levied by regulated train operating companies. [303678]

Chris Mole: Railway station car park charges are unregulated and are therefore a commercial matter for the train operators. If a passenger considers that a station car parking charge is too high, this would be a matter for the Office of Rail Regulation as the competition authority for the railway sector, to investigate under the Competition Act 1988.

East Coast Main Line Timetable

13. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with the rail regulator and train operators on proposals for the East Coast Main Line timetable from December 2010. [303679]

Chris Mole: Department for Transport officials have regular meetings with the Office of Rail Regulation and train operators, and the proposal for a new East Coast Main Line timetable has been discussed at those meetings. No proposals have been put to Ministers and no final decisions have been taken.

London-Scotland High Speed Rail Link

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on plans for a new high speed rail link between London and Scotland. [303680]

Chris Mole: The High Speed 2 company will report to Ministers by the end of the year on the case for a new line to the west midlands and on the options for a larger network serving the north-west, Yorkshire, north-east and Scotland. We will consider the company's report and respond to proposals in the new year.

Light Pollution

15. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will review the guidance given to highways authorities on light pollution in order to reduce levels of such pollution. [303681]

Mr. Khan: The Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light are produced by the Institution of Lighting Engineers (ILE), who are responsible for any reviews.

Rail Franchising

16. **David Taylor:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on proposed changes to the franchise arrangements for operating national rail passenger services. [303682]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has received a number of representations with regard to amending the current national rail franchise arrangements. These representations have come from a number of bodies including the Association of Train Operating Companies, train operators and owning groups both from the UK and overseas.

Aircraft

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pilots licensed to fly aircraft in the UK have flown *(a)* a BAe 146 and *(b)* a BAe 146 RJ. [303750]

Paul Clark: The information is not available in the format requested. However, since 1983 the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued 2,002 pilots with a license type rating which allows them to fly the BAe 146 and BAe RJ series of aircraft.

Airports

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will encourage airport operators to provide air-bridge facilities at all UK airports. [303674]

Paul Clark: The provision of air bridge facilities for passengers is an operational and commercial matter for individual airports.

Bicycles: Highway Code

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that cyclists comply with the Highway Code. [302685]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency's publishers—The Stationery Office—promote the official print edition of the Highway Code under the banner "The Highway Code—for life, not just for learners". The agency is also planning a TV filler advert specifically featuring a cyclist as someone who needs to refer to the Highway Code.

The Department developed a new National Standard for cycle training called Bikeabililty (in England). The new National Standard aims to increase the amount of training, improve its quality, as well as make sure that cyclists are aware of the law. The Standard refers specifically to the Highway Code as providing important guidance for cyclists, detailing both the law and recommended practice. We have also developed a new THINK! Education website with resources for primary school teachers, pupils and parents covering the themes of cycle training, wearing the correct clothes, cycle maintenance and using the Highway Code.

The enforcement of cycling offences is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. The hazards caused by cyclists who break road traffic laws are recognised by chief officers and appropriate action is taken where such offences are detected. We support action taken by the police to deter and reduce the number of cycling offences.

Cycling: Accidents

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many children were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured whilst riding a bicycle in the latest year for which figures are available. [303863]

Paul Clark: Twelve children (aged 0-15) on pedal cycles were killed and 405 seriously injured in reported road accidents in 2008, the latest year for which figures are available.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to relieve congestion at the Dartford crossing; and if he will make a statement. [303673]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency is implementing a package of measures, including average speed cameras and further traffic management technology to improve journey times.

The Department is taking forward further work investigating measures to improve performance at the existing crossing in the short to medium term.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of child road deaths. [302805]

Paul Clark: Recent steps the Department for Transport has taken to reduce the number of child road deaths include:

new advertising and education campaigns aimed at children, their parents and teachers;

the dissemination of the Kerbcraft child pedestrian training scheme;

the roll out of Bikeability cycle training; and

the roll out of school travel plans and infrastructure for safer routes to school.

We have also, in our consultation on a new road safety strategy, proposed to provide greater encouragement for local authorities to introduce 20 mph limits and zones in streets which are primarily residential in nature.

The safety of all road users, including children, also benefits from our activities and spending on broader road safety measures, including changes to the road environment and to improve driver behaviour.

Trust Ports

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the commercialisation of trust ports assets. [303314]

Paul Clark: We received representations about various trust port issues during the consultation on our proposed guidance to the trust port sector. We have asked the major trust ports themselves to respond to us on restructuring issues including commercialisation of their assets.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *(b)* the British Ports Association, *(c)* individual trust ports, *(d)* banks and *(e)* local authorities on the commercialisation of trust port assets; [303315]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *(b)* the British Ports Authority, *(c)* individual trust ports, *(d)* banks and *(e)* local authorities on alternative business models for Trust Ports. [303316]

Paul Clark: I met the director and chairman of the British Ports Association in October to discuss trust port issues including the implications of the request in Modernising Trust Ports, our guidance to the sector, for analyses by the major trust ports of their corporate structures. In addition, officials have had various discussions with the individual ports and their advisers, and banks, about the issues concerned. The Secretary of State has also met representatives from the ports of Dover and Tyne and Dover district council.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the revenue raised through any privatisation of trust ports can be used for the benefit of the local communities in which those ports are located. [303318]

Paul Clark: Under the Ports Act 1991 a trust port privatising must form a successor company and make a transfer scheme for the Secretary of State's approval after a public consultation. A levy is chargeable on the disposal by the port authority of the securities of the successor company. We would consider the allocation of sale proceeds at the time that any voluntary privatisation scheme was submitted to the Department for Transport. We would also consider the desirability of encouraging allocation of equity to managers and employees of the port.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the favourability of market conditions for the commercialisation of trust port assets. [303319]

Paul Clark: None. I would expect the trust ports to include some assessment of market conditions in their responses to our request for structural analyses.

WALES

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303128]

Mr. Hain: As an associated office, the Wales Office obtains its support services through the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Work Experience

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* work experience places and *(b)* internships his Department has offered to young people in the last 12 months. [302263]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has offered work experience to one young person in the last 12 months.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Deloitte Report

8. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the timing of the publication of the report by Deloitte on its operations. [303700]

9. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the timing of the publication of the report by Deloitte on its operations. [303701]

Maria Eagle: The commission published this report on its website on 26 November 2009. I was not involved in that decision or in its timing.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost was of maintaining the Government Equalities Office website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within her responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302425]

Michael Jabez Foster: The cost of maintaining the Government Equalities Office website in the 2008-09 financial year was £4,276.45.

The forecast cost of maintaining the same website in the 2009-10 financial year is £7,500.00.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the future of the rule on no recourse to public funds in respect of migrant women who have experienced domestic violence. [303695]

Maria Eagle: Last week, the Home Secretary and the Minister for Women and Equality launched "Together we can end violence against women and girls", in which the Government gave a commitment to launch a national pilot to assist victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds because of their immigration status.

The pilot, which is being administered by Eaves housing, was launched this Monday (30 November 2009). I am pleased to note that Southall Black Sisters, based in the constituency of my hon. Friend the Member for Ealing Southall, (Mr. Sharma) sit on the advisory group for this pilot and are involved in delivering training for the pilot.

I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this matter through the Inter Ministerial Group on Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Equality Bill

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what revisions were made to the explanatory notes to the Equality Bill following Committee stage; and what the reasons were for each such revisions. [303585]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Equality Bill was first published on 27 April this year with accompanying explanatory notes. The explanatory notes were republished on 19 November 2009, when the Bill was reintroduced in the House of Commons, following the Queen's Speech.

Revisions to the explanatory notes were made to reflect changes to the Bill made in the Public Bill Committee and issues raised in debate, and to make some clarifications and corrections of cost estimates and minor typographical errors.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carbon Monoxide

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that equipment sold for the sustained burning of fuel carries *(a)* a warning of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and *(b)* a recommendation for a carbon monoxide monitor. [301643]

Jonathan Shaw: Gas supply companies are required by Ofgem to annually provide consumers with information about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. The Government encourage consumers to have appliances regularly maintained and install carbon monoxide alarms as an additional protection measure.

DCLG is currently consulting on amendments to part J of the Building Regulations which include proposals to fit carbon monoxide alarms in properties where solid fuel appliances are installed.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* work-related employment and support allowance and *(c)* support group employment and support allowance aged under 25 years old there were in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) four quarters. [301786]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not presently available separately for work-related and support group employment and support allowance.

The available information is in the following tables.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants under the age of 25 years as at May in each of the last five years and the last four quarters

	Number
May 2005	173,180
May 2006	166,740
May 2007	165,740
May 2008	162,780
August 2008	164,320
November 2008	156,540
February 2009	135,180
May 2009	120,990

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to severe disablement allowance were accepted.

Source:

The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Employment and support allowance claimants under the age of 25 years in each of the last three quarters

	Number
November 2008	9,770
February 2009	29,470
May 2009[1]	46,200

[1] Provisional data

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

3. The figures relating to employment support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard; however it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown are provisional.

Source:

The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment Schemes: Disabled People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1253W, on employment schemes: disabled, in what circumstances disabled people not in work and not in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance receive assistance from employment programmes. [302800]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Disabled people not in work and not in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance may obtain support from our employment programmes under the following circumstances:

WORKSTEP

A former WORKSTEP participant who had progressed to unsupported employment but needs to return to the programme within two years; or

A former WORKSTEP participant who left the programme for any reason (other than above) but needs to return to the programme within one year; or

A recent/prospective education leaver for whom there is clear evidence of a need for support in work; or

A customer who has been granted access to WORKSTEP through a discretionary decision based upon a business case approved by an appropriate Jobcentre Plus manager; or

A customer who is in receipt of a War Disablement Pension/Armed Forces Compensation Scheme; and

Be at least 16 years old.

Work Preparation

Participants must be on the Disability Employment Adviser's caseload and have a defined job goal; and

Have disability-related needs in making a final choice of occupation or looking for work effectively; and

Be likely to be capable of working or undertaking training by the end of the programme; and

Be at least 16 years old.

Residential Training

Customers must satisfy the following eligibility conditions:

Participants must be unemployed on day one of training; and

Be at least 18 years old.

Access to Work

Access to Work is available to disabled people not in receipt of employment support allowance or jobseeker's allowance who are in employment, or to meet needs that may arise when attending a job interview.

Job Introduction Scheme

The applicant must be disabled as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The job can be full or part-time, but must be expected to last for at least six months including the Job Introduction Scheme period.

In addition, disabled people do not need to be claiming any benefits to access support from a Disability Employment Adviser. The Disability Employment Adviser works with unemployed individuals who need more extensive support because of their health condition, but also with those in employment who may need support to keep their jobs.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people in each constituency aged *(a)* between 18 and 24 years, *(b)* between 25 and 49 years and *(c)* 50 years and over who had had (i) incapacity benefit and (ii) employment support allowance withdrawn began reclaiming the benefit after appeal in each of the last five years. [302671]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 298-99W, on industrial diseases: compensation, how many of the 858 former miners who have received an award of industrial disablement benefit for osteoarthritis of the knee have *(a)* had their level of disability assessed at 14 per cent. or more and *(b)* reached the 14 per cent. required for an award of industrial disablement benefit by aggregation with an earlier disablement assessment. [302878]

Jonathan Shaw: Of the 858 miners who had received an award of industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB), 566 received assessments at 14 per cent. or more. A total of 292 miners with an under 14 per cent. assessment received either an increase, or a new award of IIDB from aggregation, but we do not have a further breakdown of this figure.

Source: DWP clerical count.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 298-99W, on industrial diseases: compensation, how many of the 858 former miners awarded industrial disablement benefit there were *(a)* in each age group, *(b)* of each level of disability and *(c)* who received industrial injury benefit awards at each level; and in respect of how many of the remaining 2,552 claims a disablement assessment of less than 14 per cent. has been made. [302879]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not have any information available regarding the age of those miners who received an award of industrial injuries disablement benefit. Of the 858 miners with an award, 566 received an assessment of 14 per cent. or greater and 292 received an assessment of under 14 per cent. We have no information available on the precise level of disablement assessment or payment they received.

Of the remaining 2,553 claims, 479 received an assessment of under 14 per cent.

Source: DWP clerical information.

Pension Credit: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households were in receipt of pension credit in the city of Newcastle in (i) February 2004 and (ii) each year since 2004. [303399]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Numbers in receipt of pension credit in Newcastle

	Households	*Beneficiaries*
February 2004	4,050	4,730
May 2004	4,320	5,050
May 2005	4,510	5,330
May 2006	4,530	5,350
May 2007	4,510	5,330
May 2008	4,470	5,280
May 2009	4,400	5,180

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a partner.
3. Number of beneficiaries pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.
4. Figures provided are for Newcastle Upon Tyne Central which is the number of individuals or couples living in the parliamentary constituency of the MP and is defined by the address and postcode of those individuals.

Source: DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have been subject to benefit sanctions in each quarter of the last five years; and what proportion of benefit claimants that figure represented in each such quarter. [302119]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Mentally Ill

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with mental health problems have been assessed as unable to work through the *(a)* work and *(b)* personal capability assessment in the last five years. [302546]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* persons were in receipt of winter fuel allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available. [303739]

Angela Eagle: 8,980,000 households and 12,420,000 individuals were in receipt of the winter fuel payment in 2008-09.

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Source: Information Directorate, 100 per cent. data.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of winter fuel allowance was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [303740]

Angela Eagle: £2.7 billion was spent on winter fuel payments in 2008-09.

Note:

Figure is rounded to the nearest 100 million

Source:

Information Directorate

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on potential EU diplomatic contributions to the campaign in Afghanistan. [303884]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses the EU's role in Afghanistan with his EU counterparts. The UK has supported Sweden, the current presidency, in prioritising Afghanistan within the EU, including driving forward a new strategy to enhance EU engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This strategy was discussed and adopted at the European Council on 30 October 2009.

The EU's assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan is substantial and has been steadily increasing. Assistance to date has achieved much, including better access to health provisions; support to rural livelihoods; support to Afghan refugees; rebuilding infrastructure and support to the reestablishment of public services, including paying the salaries of key public workers (teachers, nurses and doctors). But it is right that we, the EU, look to see how we can deliver even more.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he received on anti-Semitic behaviour by pupils of North Naples middle school, Florida in November 2009; whether he has had discussions with to the US Administration on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [303916]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no independent reports about the behaviour of pupils at North Naples Middle School in Florida in November, but he is aware of the press coverage. We believe that any instances of anti-Semitic and discriminatory behaviour particularly by children are a cause for common concern. We note that the school has treated the matter very seriously and has been reportedly quick to take action to address the issue. This includes through an address to students by the Assistant Principal covering the student code, an explanation of why what happened was wrong, the in-school suspension of the offending students and the summoning of their parents to school conferences.

Anti-Semitism is a cause of common concern for the US and UK, and we continue to work closely with the US Administration and other partners to combat anti-Semitism wherever it occurs. For example, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been a strong supporter of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism since it launched in 2006, working in partnership with the All-Party Group, colleagues across Government and Jewish non-governmental organisations to drive forward recommendations made in the inquiry. Our embassies have also supported inquiry members in their overseas visits, spreading the All-Party Group's unique approach to dealing with anti-Semitism to other countries, such as the US, Germany, Canada, Latvia and Argentina.

China: Politics and Government

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on their policy on the resumption of dialogue between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama. [304050]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed with the US Administration their policy on the resumption of dialogue between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama. US President Barack Obama discussed the matter with President Hu of China during his recent visit to that country, informing him of the support of the US for an early resumption of dialogue between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama.

We have discussed the issue at official level here and share the view with the US Administration that the interests of both Chinese and Tibetans are best served by a resumption of dialogue. We have encouraged the Chinese in that direction, including during my visit to China and Tibet in September where I made clear in my discussions our view that long-term stability can only be achieved through respect for human rights and greater autonomy, which in turn can be reached through substantive dialogue.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many external consultants work for his Department. [303236]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for procuring external consultants is devolved to individual internal directorates, departments and overseas posts within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) against the provision of central advice and guidance. Each directorate, department and post would need to be contacted to obtain the details requested and collating such information would require additional resource which would exceed the current threshold for disproportionate cost.

In addition, consultancy contracts may be let for a fixed price. Under such circumstances, the FCO would be less interested in the number of consultants used on a particular project by a consultancy company as it would be up to the company to decide on the resources required to deliver against the statement of requirements/terms of reference, remaining within the contracted price.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303334]

Chris Bryant: Since January 2009, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has entered into one contract with Kellogg, Brown and Root for the provision of 'Life Support' in Iraq. This includes catering, laundry, site management, cleaning services, site and accommodation waste removal and vector control. The contract has an estimated value of £3 million per annum.

Kenya: Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Kenya on the non-payment of pensions to retired Kenyan civil servants with British citizenship who are resident in that country. [303876]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are very concerned by the Freezing Order issued by the High Court on 23 October 2009 on accounts belonging to the Government of Kenya held by Crown Agents Bank. The freezing of these accounts affects the payment of pensions to former Kenyan civil servants. We are raising the issue with the Government of Kenya who are fully aware of their responsibilities in the matter.

Venezuela: Nuclear Weapons

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his Venezuelan counterpart on the nuclear weapons capability of that country. [303709]

Chris Bryant: Venezuela has no nuclear weapon capability. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to speak to his Venezuelan counterpart on this matter.

Western Sahara: Natural Resources

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 336W, on Western Sahara: natural resources, what account he has taken in the formulation of his policy of the statement by the former legal counsel to the United Nations on *(a)* the legality of exploitation of natural resources in Western Sahara and *(b)* the interests and wishes of the people of Western Sahara. [304058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: When considering their policy on the extraction of resources in the disputed territory of Western Sahara, the Government took into account the opinion set out by the UN Legal Counsel, then Hans Correll, in his letter to the President of the Security Council of 29 January 2002.

On this basis, the UK's position remains that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration—including the extraction and exportation of natural resources—do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara.

JUSTICE

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997; [303089]

(2) on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303162]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was formed on 9 May 2007. This merger included the former Department of Constitutional Affairs and the National Offender Management Service, which was formerly part of the Home Office. Expenditure related to external consultants is not held centrally. To obtain this information would require approaching a large number of local business units across England and Wales and this could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Centrally-available data shows that 16 contracts were awarded to Capita Resourcing Ltd. (part of Capita Group plc) for the provision of professional services from the period 1 May 2008 to present. Of these, three terminate after 31 December 2010.

Data about cancellation before completion, liability for penalty payments, the number of times a company tenders for business and its subsequent success rate and the monetary value of all outstanding contracts are not held centrally, for the reasons explained [illegible] and could be gathered only at disproportion[illegible] Ministry of Justice is implementing a new [illegible] system that will enable more data to be captured and maintained. Implementation is due to complete at the beginning of 2010 with information being available in the second quarter of 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302968]

Mr. Wills: It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of office facilities provided to special advisers and press officers from the total cost of providing office facilities to the Ministry of Justice as a whole.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account is taken of the views of the family of the victim in deciding to transfer a person convicted of murder to an open prison. [302255]

Maria Eagle: The family of the victim are able to submit a victim impact statement to oral hearings of the independent Parole Board when it is considering the suitability for transfer to an open prison—or the release—of a person serving a sentence of life imprisonment or an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection. This would include the hearing for an offender sentenced to an indeterminate sentence, having been convicted of murder. The purpose of these statements is to convey the family's views about the impact of the crime and the likely impact on the family of the prisoner's potential transfer to open prison or release into the community.

In addition, victims have a statutory right to make representations about the licence conditions or supervision requirements to which an offender should be subject to on release from prison, including temporary releases on licence from prison.

Transfer of any prisoner to open conditions will only take place if continued detention in closed conditions is no longer necessary for the protection of the public. Open conditions allow prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties and reintegrate into the community. All these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward amendments to the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill to make people who are non-domiciled for taxation purposes ineligible for election to the House of Commons. [303803]

Mr. Wills: The Government support the principle that Members of Parliament should pay taxes in the United Kingdom. We have no current plans, however, to table such amendments to the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill.

Terry Jupp

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the inquest into the death of Mr. Terry Jupp has been further postponed; on what date he expects the inquest to begin; and if he will make a statement. [302629]

Mr. Straw: Operational matters, such as the reasons for the adjournment and the listing of inquests, are solely for coroners, who are independent judicial office holders. I understand, however, that the coroner for Southend and South East Essex, Dr. Peter Dean, hopes to resume the inquest into Mr. Jupp's death in May 2010.

Young Offenders: Location

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of young people in young offender institutions aged *(a)* between 10 and 12, *(b)* between 13 and 15, *(c)* 16 or 17 and *(d)* between 18 and 20 years old were held over 20 miles away from their previous homes in each year since 1997. [302315]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number and percentage of 15 to 20-year-old male and female offenders in young offender institutions (YOIs) who were detained over 20 miles from their home area, in each of the last five years. Data prior to 2005 are not available in the format requested.

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. Approximately 60 per cent. of prisoners (both male and female) are shown to have given a recognised address.

If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address.

Those aged 10 to 14 are not held in YOIs.

Date	*Number of 15-year-olds held over 20 miles from home*	*Proportion of 15-year-olds held over 20 miles from home (Percentage)*	*Number of 16 and 17-year-olds held over 20 miles from home*	*Proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds held over 20 miles from home (Percentage)*	*Number of 18, 19 and 20-year-olds held over 20 miles from home*	*Proportion of 18, 19 and 20-year-olds held over 20 miles from home (Percentage)*
September 2005	213	80	1,607	80	4,348	82
September 2006	256	82	1,772	82	4,656	82
September 2007	217	82	1,721	81	4,645	80
September 2008	198	82	1,702	80	4,672	80
May 2009	161	76	1,435	78	4,886	83

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged between 10 and 15 years breached anti-social behaviour orders in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and how many breaches occurred in each year. [302579]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2006, 289 persons aged between 10 and 15 years breached their antisocial behaviour order on a total of 1,020 occasions. The equivalent figures for 2007 are 250 persons and 942 occasions respectively.

Asylum

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children seeking asylum and aged *(a)* 17, *(b)* 12 to 16, *(c)* five to 11 and *(d)* under five years old have been removed from the UK through (i) voluntary and (ii) forced departure in each year since 1997. [302883]

Alan Johnson: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures of children asylum cases under 18 years of age, including dependants, from the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, by age group and type of departure.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1, 2] of children asylum cases[3], by age group and type, 2004 to 2008

	Number of departures[4]				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[5]*	*2008[5]*
Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[6, 7]	1,050	1,400	1,035	570	505
Of which					
Under 5 years	435	500	375	220	175
5 to 11 years	295	435	355	205	180
12 to 16 years	205	330	230	115	120
17 years	115	140	80	30	25
Assisted voluntary returns[8]	295	235	580	305	160
Of which					
Under 5 years	120	110	280	145	70
5 to 11 years	100	65	190	95	50
12 to 16 years	60	40	80	50	30
17 years	20	20	30	15	10
Other voluntary departures[9]	n/a		30	35	60
Of which					
Under 5 years	n/a		5	5	10
5 to 11 years	n/a		15	15	20
12 to 16 years	n/a		5	10	20
17 years	n/a		5	5	15
Total removals and voluntary departures	1,345	1,635	1,645	905	725
Of which					
Under 5 years	555	610	660	370	255
5 to 11 years	395	500	555	310	250

Removals and voluntary departures[4,6] of children asylum cases[2], by age group and type, 2004 to 2008

	Number of departures[1]				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[5]
12 to 16 years	265	370	320	175	170
17 years	135	155	110	50	50

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Figures include dependants.

[3] This figure may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on their date of departure from the UK.

[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[5] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[6] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[7] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under facilitated return schemes.

[8] Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some cases leaving under the assisted voluntary return for irregular migrants programme and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

[9] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Asylum: China

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for political asylum his Department has received from individuals from China citing their Tibetan origin as a reason for seeking asylum in each year since 1997. [302634]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information relating to Chinese nationals is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum and settlement, including figures on Chinese nationals, is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Crime

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* criminal offences and *(b)* civil offences at all levels (i) were committed and reported and (ii) are estimated to have been committed but not reported in the last year for which figures are available. [303434]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: The British Crime Survey (BCS) gives a count of criminal offences experienced by adults resident in households in England and Wales. For the crime types that it covers, the BCS provides a better guide to the level of crime as it includes those that are not reported to the police, or recorded by them. As such, the BCS asks victims whether an incident had been reported to the police, or whether the police came to know about it another way, and is therefore able to estimate reporting rates.

The 2008-09 BCS estimates that there were approximately 10,687,000 crimes. The survey estimated that the police came to know about 41 per cent. of such incidents and conversely, 59 per cent. went unreported. The BCS does not cover civil offences and thus comparable figures are not available.

Crime: Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of crimes detected in which evidence from closed circuit television was the primary factor in the last 12 months; [301791]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of closed circuit television in *(a)* preventing and *(b)* prosecuting crime. [301792]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The most recent and most robust assessment of the international evidence on the impact of CCTV was a 2008 systematic review published by the Campbell Crime and Justice Group. The review was part funded by the Home Office. The review found that CCTV has a modest but statistically significant crime reduction effect; is most effective in reducing crime in car parks; is most effective when targeted at vehicle crimes (largely a function of the successful car park schemes); and is more effective in reducing crime in the UK than in other countries. The review concludes that CCTV is an effective crime prevention measure in public spaces, but, in contrast to its current broad application, should focus only on the specific targets against which it is shown to be most effective.

Further work is under way to strengthen the evidence base including work by the National Policing Improvement Agency and Cheshire Constabulary to provide a qualitative analysis of recorded crime data and case files in Cheshire to determine the value of CCTV to investigations.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many external consultants work for his Department. [303213]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department's commercial objectives require consultancy services to be commissioned in terms of defined output, not in terms of the individuals assigned by the firms. The Department does not hold information on individual consultants.

The Home Department uses a wide range of firms from small specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria his Department use in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303133]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money. Use is made of criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract to determine that an offer is the most economically advantageous tender including quality, price, technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, environmental characteristics, running costs, cost effectiveness, after sales service, technical assistance, delivery date and delivery period and period of completion.

A search of records since 1997 for expenditure on the advertisement of tenders for contracts would incur disproportionate cost, however, from best available records the Department since 2006 has spent £3,495 excl. VAT on advertising tenders.

Tenders, subject to EU Procurement Directives thresholds, are advertised at no cost in the Official Journal of the EU. OJEU notices can be created within the Home Office eSourcing Tool (PCT) and submitted directly for publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

Departmental Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what databases for which his Department is responsible have been subject to confirmed security breaches in each of the last five years. [301263]

Mr. Woolas: The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures to which departments must adhere.

It is not in the interest of the security of the department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information relating to electronic breaches of security of departmental IT systems. Disclosing such information would carry a significant risk of enabling criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice not to comment on such incidents.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997, and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302710]

Mr. Woolas: As we do not waste taxpayers' money on pointless bureaucracy, information relating to how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Home Office have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Trainings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [301376]

Mr. Woolas: Training is provided to Ministers and special advisers as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the Ministerial Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/
MinisterialProgramme/Table.asp

Deportation: Security

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost of security guard escorts for forced removals and deportations from the UK *(a)* was in each year from 2006-07 to 2008-09 and *(b)* is in 2009-10; and what proportion of those costs are attributable to outsourced or agency staff in each of those years. [302531]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has contracts with private suppliers to escort individuals removed from the United Kingdom. The value of contracts is commercially sensitive due to ongoing procurement activity and cannot therefore be disclosed.

The value of contracts to escort individuals removed from the United Kingdom in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was:

	£ million
2007-08	10.43
2006-07	9.15

Entry Clearances

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* postal and *(b)* premium applications for further leave to remain have been made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system since 5 October 2009; and how much revenue has accrued from fees for applications of each type since that date. [301660]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 November 2009]:* The number of postal applications made for further leave to remain under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 5 October 2009 to 22 November 2009 is 36,251. The value of these applications is £12,939,465.

The number of premium applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 5 Oct 2009 to 22 November 2009 is 3,369. The value of these applications is £1,903,485.

The amount of revenue earned from fees from caseworking activities in respect of postal applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 5 October 2009 to 22 November 2009 is £5,829,453.

The amount of revenue earned from caseworking activities in respect of fees for premium applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 5 October 2009 to 22 November 2009 is £1,962,245.

This information is derived from internal management information systems. All figures from this source are provisional and subject to audit and amendment.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from each European Union member state have come to the UK to study in the last five years. [301425]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on entrants to UK Higher Education Institutions from EU countries is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: EU domiciled entrants[1] by country of domicile: UK higher education institutions[2]—Academic years 2003-08

EU country of domicile	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Austria	665	620	615	655	670
Belgium	1,090	970	1,005	1,070	1,045
Bulgaria[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	870
Cyprus[4]	n/a	3,315	3,725	4,300	4,600
Czech Republic[4]	n/a	480	530	615	670
Denmark	845	795	735	725	800
Finland	805	760	780	690	725
France	6,825	7,000	7,500	7,600	8,100
Germany	6,095	6,425	6,925	7,265	7,695
Gibraltar	200	225	230	250	265
Greece	9,500	8,375	7,635	6,900	6,060
Hungary[4]	n/a	365	470	530	500
Irish Republic	7,120	6,920	7,355	7,095	7,045
Italy	2,300	2,370	2,445	2,465	2,715
Luxembourg	310	300	345	360	350
Malta[4]	n/a	315	380	335	365
Netherlands	n/a	1,095	1,255	1,300	1,530
Poland[4]	n/a	1,600	3,035	4,145	4,630
Portugal	1,095	1,160	1,135	1,195	1,150
Romania[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	690
Spain	3,365	3,200	3,340	3,465	3,250
Sweden	1,405	1,520	1,420	1,390	1,265
Estonia[4]	n/a	130	250	265	300
Latvia[4]	n/a	160	370	535	630
Lithuania[4]	n/a	380	750	690	965
Slovenia[4]	n/a	125	170	115	180
Slovakia[4]	n/a	205	455	460	565
EU, not otherwise specified	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25
Total EU countries	42,905	50,120	52,635	53,405	57,665

[1] Covers entrants to all levels and modes of study.
[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
[3] 2007 EU accession country.
[4] 2004 EU accession country.
Notes:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2 shows participation by learners from the EU on further education provision in England in 2007-08, only where they have been recorded on the FE Individualised Learner Record. Analysis of information for 2003-04 to 2006-07 is not currently available. To provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Table 2: Participation by LSC-funded learners from the EU in further education provision in England, 2007-08

EU country of domicile	2007-08
Austria	140
Belgium	190
Bulgaria	-
Cyprus	10
Czech Republic	1,030
Denmark	140
Finland	50
France	10
Germany	1,250
Gibraltar	10
Greece	140
Hungary	1,000
Irish Republic	380
Italy	10
Luxembourg	10
Malta	30
Netherlands	500
Poland	11,450
Portugal	930
Romania	-
Spain	10
Sweden	170
Estonia	130
Latvia	540
Lithuania	1,000
Slovenia	30
Slovakia	1,610
Total	20,760

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. "-" indicates null or <5.
2. Further Education Provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special College - Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
3. Information is based on 'Country of Domicile'—the country where the learner is ordinarily resident for the three years preceding the start of the programme.
4. Institutions are advised that the Country of Domicile filed should be treated as a self assessment field and should reflect the learner's normal country of residence.
5. 'Total' in Table 2 does not include learners with County of Domicile of UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.
6. Figures include LSC-funded learners only.
Source:
FE Individualised Learner Record

Foreign Workers: Health Services

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 20 non-EU nationalities received the most work permits for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) four quarters. [301780]

Mr. Woolas: The work permit scheme closed on 26 November 2008 and was replaced by the points based system. The following table shows the number of work permits which were approved for applications from nurses and doctors from the top 20 countries, in the 12 months prior to the closure of the scheme.

Work permit approvals

		2008				
Top 20 countries		*January to December*	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*Total*
India	Doctor	45	55	100	50	250
	Nurse	855	960	915	660	3,390
Philippines	Doctor	0	[1]	5	[1]	5
	Nurse	320	315	450	220	1,305
Zimbabwe	Doctor	0	5	5	[1]	10
	Nurse	315	265	345	250	1,175
South Africa	Doctor	35	55	55	25	170
	Nurse	105	130	105	70	410
Nigeria	Doctor	5	5	15	5	35
	Nurse	95	125	160	110	490
Pakistan	Doctor	25	20	45	15	105
	Nurse	55	50	60	35	200
Ghana	Doctor	5	5	5	[1]	15
	Nurse	45	45	65	65	220
China, People's Republic	Doctor	20	15	50	35	120
	Nurse	25	25	30	20	100
Australia	Doctor	15	15	15	15	60
	Nurse	25	45	40	25	140
Nepal	Doctor	0	0	[1]	0	[1]
	Nurse	60	55	60	20	195
Mauritius	Doctor	0	0	[1]	0	[1]
	Nurse	35	35	50	35	150
Sri Lanka	Doctor	10	15	45	20	90
	Nurse	10	10	15	10	45
Zambia	Doctor	0	0	0	0	0
	Nurse	25	35	45	25	130
Kenya	Doctor	0	0	[1]	[1]	5
	Nurse	25	35	30	25	115
Jamaica	Doctor	0	[1]	0	[1]	5
	Nurse	20	25	30	25	95
Egypt	Doctor	10	10	30	20	75
	Nurse	0	0	[1]	0	[1]
Trinidad and Tobago	Doctor	[1]	5	5	5	15
	Nurse	15	15	25	10	60
New Zealand	Doctor	[1]	[1]	5	5	10
	Nurse	15	15	15	15	60
Guyana	Doctor	0	0	0	0	0
	Nurse	15	10	30	20	70
Romania	Doctor	[1]	5	20	5	35
	Nurse	[1]	10	5	5	25
Total		2,395	2,625	3,130	2,015	10,170

[1] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Immigration Controls

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the UK Border Agency does not accept premium bonds as relevant for assessment of the cash maintenance requirement for the points-based immigration system; and what other Government funds are treated in the same way. [302528]

Mr. Woolas: The published policy guidance for each tier of the points-based system makes clear that evidence to meet the maintenance requirement must be in the form of cash funds in a bank (including savings accounts and financial or government sponsorship.

Evidence in the form of shares, bonds, pension funds etc, regardless of notice period, is not acceptable because the value of these may change and do not show that a migrant can meet the level of funding required in order to support themselves.

Immigration Controls: France

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shifts have been worked by UK Border Agency staff on duties in Calais and Pas-de-Calais in 2009 and how much has been paid in shift allowances for carrying out such duties. [302530]

Mr. Woolas: From 1 January to 31 October 2009, a total of 99,690[1] shifts were carried out by UK Border Agency staff in Calais, Coquelles, Dunkerque and Boulogne.

In addition to basic salary costs, shift allowance costs of £1,378,521[1] were incurred.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letters of 20 and 21 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Canterbury on the gap entrant visa requirements; [302672]

(2) when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letters of 15 June and 1 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Canterbury on changes in visa requirements for academics. [302673]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to the hon. Member on 1 December 2009.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's letter of 28 September 2009 on the case of Yuet Chun Yeung, reference B35067/9. [303202]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: In response to the letter of 28 September, the Deputy Director for Economic and Family Migration in London and South East Region wrote to the right hon. Member on 27 November.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter of 12 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss Aisha Din. [301365]

Alan Johnson: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 26 October 2009. A copy of the reply was sent on 30 November 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he intends to reply to the letter of 8 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M. Amin; [303387]

(2) when he intends to reply to the letter of 7 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Fadumo Sharif Ahmed; [303409]

(3) when he intends to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. James Mwaguta Pondayi; [303411]

(4) when he intends to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Muhsin Gafur Karim; [303412]

(5) when he intends to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr. Farai Edgar Kwedza. [303416]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 30 November 2009.

Motor Vehicles: Waste Disposal

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to each police force has been of operations which resulted in the seizure and crushing of motor vehicles in each of the last four years. [303283]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not collected centrally. The police have powers to order the removal and storage of vehicles under different provisions, whether as the result of a specific operation, observation of a relevant offence in the normal course of their duties, or to deal with a particular situation that has arisen. If such vehicles are not reclaimed, the police may dispose of them as they see fit. This can include by crushing. To meet the costs of removal and storage in individual cases, a person seeking to reclaim a vehicle has to pay prescribed charges. If the vehicle is disposed of, a sum equivalent to the charges due is retained from any proceeds of the disposal.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motor vehicles the police have ordered to be crushed in each police force area in each of the last four years. [303285]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected centrally.

National DNA Database

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women resident in each local authority area in the South East have their profile stored on the National DNA Database. [301349]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the address of the person sampled. Information is therefore not available on the number of men and women residing in each local authority area in the South East who have had a DNA profile added to the NDNAD. However, information is available on the number of profiles added by police forces.

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[1] These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent national statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

The following table shows the number of subject profiles for men and women held on the NDNAD by police forces in London and the South East as at 23 November 2009. The figures have been separated into males currently aged under 18 and aged 18 and over, and females currently aged under 18 and aged 18 and over. The police forces have been grouped by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) region and a total figure has been given for each region.

Profiles held by any one police force include people who have been sampled by that police force but are not resident within the police force area, and will exclude people who are resident in that police force area but have had their sample taken by another police force.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, for example, a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles from the SGM to the SGM Plus profiling system. It is estimated that 13.8 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals are not given for particular police forces.

The data presented are based on a snapshot of the NDNAD as at 23 November 2009. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Number of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD for each named police force, as at 23 November 2009

		Profiles retained		
	Gender	Under 18	18 and over	All ages[1]
London Force				
City of London Police	Female	31	3305	3,336
	Male	130	22,143	22,275
	Unassigned gender	0	27	27
Metropolitan Police	Female	10,106	165,176	175,302
	Male	28,230	745,012	773,342
	Unassigned gender	67	2,483	2,554
Total		38,575	938,160	976,836
South East Force				
Hampshire	Female	3,557	33,435	36,992
	Male	6,935	125,447	132,386
	Unassigned gender	6	241	247
Kent	Female	3,475	32,578	36,054
	Male	6,960	119,739	126,705
	Unassigned gender	20	2,016	2,036
Surrey	Female	1,171	13,459	14,642
	Male	2,511	52,575	55,128
	Unassigned gender	1	142	143
Sussex	Female	2,631	27,242	29,874
	Male	4,777	95,123	99,902
	Unassigned gender	3	51	54
Thames Valley	Female	3,483	33,355	36,845
	Male	7,166	134,576	141,795
	Unassigned gender	43	735	778
Total		42,739	670,714	713,581

[1] Figures for 'All Ages' include profiles where age is not recorded i.e. 'unknown age'.

Source:

National DNA Database, NPIA, as at 23 November 2009

Police

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to *(a)* police authorities and *(b)* police forces on police performance targets; and if he will make a statement. [304014]

Mr. Hanson: As part of the Policing Green Paper, "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together", the Home Office stated that it would neither set nor maintain top-down numerical targets for individual police forces and authorities with the exception of one—to increase public confidence that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter locally. Each police force will be expected to increase public confidence levels (to be measured by the British Crime Survey) to achieve a 60 per cent. national average by 2012.

In consultation with the Association of Police Authorities (APA), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), we have published a narrative describing the new performance landscape for Crime and Policing. This sets out how new crime and policing performance management arrangements will work in practice and sets out the roles and responsibilities of different organisations (including police forces and authorities) within the new performance landscape. The narrative document can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/Performance_Landscape_narra1.pdf

Repatriation: Cameroon

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions there have been between the UK Government and the government of the Republic of Cameroon to facilitate the monitoring by UK High Commission staff of those returned to Cameroon from the UK. [303428]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: There have been no discussions between the UK and Cameroonian Governments to facilitate the monitoring by UK high commission staff of those returned to Cameroon from the UK.

The UK Border Agency only enforces the return of individuals to Cameroon whom they, and the courts, are satisfied are not in need of protection, and where the individual does not elect to leave voluntarily.

Travel Requirements

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on travel requirements, how many of the 6,787 people who arrived at UK airports without documentation in the last three years were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted of an offence. [301722]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested can be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Serco

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what functions SERCO is required to undertake in the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate as part of its contract; what the length of the contract is; and what performance targets apply to it. [302527]

Mr. Woolas: Temporary staff are being employed to carry out administrative tasks, freeing up existing, trained, case resolution directorate (CRD) staff so they can concentrate on decision making. CRD have outsourced the administrative functions only and have therefore allowed their permanent experienced staff to focus on decision making. SERCO is required to recruit and maintain sufficient staff to complete this function and has challenging targets for quality and throughput that align to bring the SERCO element of work to conclusion before the contracted end date.

The current contract with SERCO runs until autumn 2010, although this may be subject to review. The date of the termination of the contract with SERCO does not necessarily indicate that CRD will have concluded all the cases in the backlog within this same time frame.

Work Permits

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the work permits granted on the basis of intra-company transfer in respect of non-EU IT contractors in each quarter of the last five years were granted in relation to Government-funded projects. [303039]

Mr. Woolas: The breakdown of work permits granted on the basis of intra-company transfers in respect of non-EU IT contractors in each of the last five years, specifically relating to Government funded projects, is not centrally collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the release of people taken prisoner by British armed forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [301434]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A formal review is conducted by the UK Detention Authority in Afghanistan for each individual detainee. The authority considers whether to release or transfer them to the Afghan authorities. This decision is based on whether there is sufficient admissible evidence likely to result in a successful prosecution by the Afghanistan judicial system. If there is insufficient evidence for prosecution by the Afghan Authorities, they are released.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether humanitarian work carried out by the Military Stabilisation Support Team in Helmand is counted towards the UK's 0.7 per cent. of gross domestic product. [303193]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 1 December 2009]*: No.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects Afghan security forces to be able to provide security in Helmand. [301529]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Afghan National Security Forces are already playing a key role in providing security in Afghanistan, including Helmand, as is shown by the role they played in providing security for the Afghan Presidential Election and contributing to Operation Panther's Claw. They regularly work with and operate successfully alongside international and UK troops.

As recently emphasised by the Prime Minister, the UK will continue to work with international partners, including the Government of Afghanistan, to establish the conditions under which the Afghans can start to take responsibility for their own security.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many night vision goggles have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [302819]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on lost and stolen night vision goggles in Afghanistan is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Losses are recorded by individual units but information is not aggregated centrally.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* minor injuries, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* fatalities among service personnel have been recorded by his Department in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [303809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fatality and casualty statistics for UK military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are routinely updated for each fortnight on the MOD website. The tables can be found at:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/
OperationsFactsheets/
OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what proportion of serving military personnel of each sex in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force have changed personal status category in each of the last five years; [301864]

(2) how many and what proportion of serving military personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force there were in each personal status category in each of the last five years. [301865]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Personal marital status is recorded in order to determine entitlement to allowances and service families accommodation. These Personal Status Categories (PStat Cat) are:

PStat Cat 1—A legally married member of the services or a member of the services who has registered a civil partnership.

PStat Cat 2—A member of the services who has parental responsibility in terms of the Children Act for a child(ren).

PStat Cat 3—A member of the services not in PStat Cat 1 or 2 and provides financial support to their former spouse/partner by way of a voluntary agreement.

PStat Cat 4—A member of the services not in PStat Cat 1 or 2 and provides financial support to their former spouse/partner by way of a court order.

PStat Cat 5—All other members of the services.

Joint Personnel Administration has for the first time allowed service personnel to take responsibility for their own administration. All service personnel are encouraged to notify the service authorities on a change of personal circumstances that may require a change in PStat Cat. As a result the data provided in the following tables are derived from declarations that have been made by Service Personnel.

UK regular service personnel in each PStat Cat as at 1 October 2009

	Royal Navy		Army		Royal Air Force	
Personal status category	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1	15,020	39.0	42,780	39.1	21,170	48.1
2	310	0.8	1,090	1.0	700	1.6
3	1,260	3.3	3,840	3.5	1,490	3.4
4	120	0.3	330	0.3	80	0.2
5	21,690	56.4	60,780	55.8	20,490	46.6
No category recorded	50	0.1	90	0.1	10	0.0

UK regular service personnel in each PStat Cat as at 1 October 2008

	Royal Navy		Army		Royal Air Force	
Personal status category	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1	15,270	40.0	42,160	40.2	21,530	50.1
2	280	0.7	990	0.9	700	1.6
3	1,260	3.3	3,580	3.4	1,530	3.6
4	120	0.3	360	0.3	80	0.2
5	21,170	55.4	57,580	54.9	19,150	44.5
No category recorded	80	0.2	290	0.3	30	0.0

UK regular service personnel in each PStat Cat as at 1 October 2007

	Royal Navy		Army		Royal Air Force	
Personal status category	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1	15,780	40.8	43,100	40.8	22,720	51.5
2	270	0.7	970	0.9	680	1.5
3	1,320	3.4	3,620	3.4	1,570	3.6
4	120	0.3	390	0.4	90	0.2
5	20,920	54.3	57,580	54.4	18,750	42.5
No category recorded	140	0.4	220	0.2	260	0.6

The following tables show the numbers of UK Regular Service Personnel who are recorded as having a different PStat Cat at the end of the reporting period compared to the start. Any changes between these dates that involve a change from one PSat Cat to another and then reversion back to the former, for example PCat Stat 1 to 3 and then back to 1, is not included.

Period: 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009

	Male		*Female*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Royal Navy	1,540	4.9	230	7.4	1,770	5.0
Army	6,400	6.9	900	12.0	7,300	7.3
Royal Air Force	2,180	6.3	560	10.6	2,740	6.9

Period: 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008

	Male		*Female*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Royal Navy	1,300	4.1	210	6.3	1,500	4.3
Army	5,450	6.0	750	10.2	6,200	6.3
Royal Air Force	1,700	4.9	400	7.6	2,100	5.2

Prior to the introduction of JPA, Personal Status (Marital) Category was not recorded in the same way. Data relating to the marital status, and changes to that status, of service personnel prior to the phased implementation were stored on legacy systems. This information would require a manual search of records and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Allergies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces with nut allergies *(a)* are serving on operations and *(b)* have served on operations in the last five years. [303861]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the written answers I gave to him on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 288W-89W.

Where the responsible Medical Officer determines that a member of the armed forces suffers from a nut allergy with a significant risk of anaphylaxis, the member will not be deployed. The total number of individuals with declared nut allergies in the armed forces, presently and historically, whether deployed or otherwise, is not held centrally. It could only be obtained by examining the medical records of all personnel, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel *(a)* received serious injuries and *(b)* had limbs amputated in each of the last five years. [303815]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD is committed to publishing casualty statistics on the number of service personnel wounded on operations. Information on serious casualties sustained since January 2003 (Iraq) and January 2001 (Afghanistan) is available on the MOD website via the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

These statistics are updated fortnightly online.

For amputee numbers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 7MC, to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink).

Armed Forces: Theft

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what sentences were given to servicemen found guilty of theft of armed forces equipment in each of the last 10 years; [301593]

(2) how many members of the armed forces were convicted of stealing Ministry of Defence equipment in each of the last five years; and what sentences have been handed down in respect of such convictions in each year. [302360]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answers 24 and 30 November 2009]*: Information from the three services' and Ministry of Defence police's databases for thefts of Ministry of Defence equipment is provided in the following list. Each line reflects one offence and its corresponding punishment.

The information provided pertains solely to thefts of MOD equipment and does not include those cases where the item stolen was not identified.

Information in the years before 2004 is not comprehensive as records relating to the RAF personnel could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

1999: 15 guilty/proven verdicts

Police Caution

Fined £100

Dismissal and 60 days detention

Fined £1,200

Fined £250

112 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,500

Dismissal and eight months and 26 days detention

Dismissal and pay suspended to the amount of £239.07

Fined £500

Reduced in rank

140 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £212.17

14 days Restriction of privileges

Dismissal and reduced in rank

82 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £32.61

14 days restriction of privileges

2000: 11 guilty charges

12 months probation and 100 hours community service, £55 costs and disqualified from driving for 12 months

Fined £400 and internal disciplinary action taken

60 hours community rehabilitation over 18 months and £250 costs

Dismissal and 165 days detention, pay suspended to the amount of £1,075 and reduced in rank

Fined £160

112 days detention

140 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1500

Nine months detention and £1,000 compensation

112 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £383.94

Dismissal

Six months and 24 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £140

2001: 17 guilty charges

Six months imprisonment

59 days detention and reduced in rank

28 days detention

Fined £750

Fined £600

Fined £350

Severe reprimand — mitigated by the Appropriate Review Authority to admonishment

Dismissal and 135 days detention

Seven months detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,427.17

Six months detention

Dismissal and six months detention

Fined £500

Fined £500

Dismissal, 165 days detention and reduced in rank

Dismissal

82 days detention and reduced in rank

Reduced in rank and pay suspended to the amount of £2,000

2002: 15 guilty/proven verdicts

Fined £1,050 and pay suspended to the amount of £12.66

14 days extra work and drills

140 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,250

112 days detention

Six months detention

180 days detention

42 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £106.50

Fined £1,000, severe reprimand, and pays suspended to the amount of £6,043.08

Fined £500

112 days detention

Fined £1,000 and pay suspended to the amount of £1,000

Fined £500

Reduced in rank

Dismissal, 122 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £100

Fined £650

2003: 22 guilty/proven verdicts

Dismissal and 42 days detention and pay suspended for 318 days

Fined £300

Dismissal and 80 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £158.15

Dismissal and three months detention

Dismissal and 66 days detention

Six months forfeiture of seniority and reprimand

Admonished

Fined £50 and pay suspended to the amount of £200

Fined £750

Admonished

Pay suspended to the amount of £2,830.08

Dismissal and two years detention and reduced in rank

56 days detention

112 days detention

Fined £450

Fined £750

28 days detention

42 days detention

Reduced in rank

Fined £650

Fined £650

Reduced in rank

2004: 13 guilty/proven verdicts

Fine of £1,200

28 days detention and paid stopped to the amount of £373.22

Reduced in rank

Fined £500

28 days detention and reduced in rank

26 days detention and reduced in rank

140 days detention

Reduced in rank and fined £4,000

28 days detention and compensation of £3,000 paid

Fined £250

Dismissal

Police caution

Police caution

2005: 15 guilty/proven verdicts

Dismissal and six months detention

Dismissal and 84 days detention

11 months detention and reduced in rank

Dismissal, one year detention suspended and reduced in rank

Dismissal, imprisoned six months and reduced in rank

Fine £300

42 days detention

28 days detention

Pay suspended to the amount of £1,000

84 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £160

Dismissal and three months detention

Police caution

Seven years and six months imprisonment

12 months community order, 80 hours community service and £1,105.52 paid in compensation.

Fined £400

2006: 32 guilty/proven verdicts

56 days detention

Dismissal, imprisoned five years and 252 days and reduced in rank

112 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £500

Pay suspended to the amount of £1,200

Dismissal and imprisoned for four years and 339 days

Dismissal and six months detention

84 days detention

Reduced in rank

Reduced in rank

Reduced in rank

Reduced in rank

Dismissal

Dismissal and 18 months detention

112 days detention

Dismissal and five years and four months imprisonment

Dismissal and five years and eight months imprisonment and reduced in rank

Dismissal and five years imprisonment

Fined £1,500

Six months detention, suspended for one year and reduced in rank

Fined £300

Fined £1,000, pay suspended to the amount of £1,500

Dismissal, eight years imprisonment and reduced in rank

Fined £1,000

Dismissal

Fined £504, five days extra work and pay stopped for 30 days

120 days detention

56 days detention

Police caution

Final warning

12 months imprisonment

Fined £490

Fined £650

2007: 33 guilty/proven verdicts

Fined £500

Reduced in rank

Fined £400

Admonished

Dismissal, 11 months and one day detention and reduced in rank

Admonished

Dismissal and Imprisoned for seven years and five months

Six months detention

88 days detention and reduced in rank

88 days detention

Fined £[illegible] and reduced in rank

Fined £650

Fined £1,000 and pay suspended to the amount of £650

Dismissal and 18 months detention

Dismissal and nine years and 174 days imprisonment

Dismissal and nine years and 263 days imprisonment

Fined £1,800 and reduced in rank

One day detention

Dismissal and 30 days detention

150 days detention and pay topped to the amount of £424

Dismissal, 90 days detention and reduced in rank

105 days detention and fined £2,000

Dismissal and 140 days detention

Reprimand, fined £250 and pay suspended to the amount of £639.29

Fined £563 and 14 days extra work

Fined £100

42 days detention

42 days detention

Dismissal and six months detention

150 days detention

Three years and six months imprisonment

Three years and six months imprisonment

Two years and six months imprisonment

2008: 32 guilty/proven verdicts

Dismissal, fined £1,000 and pay suspended to the amount of £41.51

Admonished

120 days detention and reduced in rank

60 days detention

Dismissal, 12 months detention and reduced in rank

Fined £75

Reduced in rank and pay suspended to the amount of £62.21

Reduced in rank and pay suspended to the amounts of £575.70 and £93.99

Dismissal and seven months and 16 days detention

120 days detention, suspended for one year and reduced in rank

Dismissal, 150 days dismissal and reduced in rank

90 days detention and reduced in rank

28 days detention and compensation of £750 paid

Dismissal, 15 years imprisonment and reduced in rank

Fined £750

Dismissal and 109 days detention

Dismissal and five years and six months imprisonment

Nine months detention

Six months detention and reduced in rank

Police caution

Police caution

Police caution

Police caution

Police caution

12 months imprisonment

12 months imprisonment

16 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months

200 hours community order

Fined £500, £400 costs and £15 victim surcharge

52 weeks imprisonment suspended for two years, 250 hours unpaid work within 12 months

36 weeks imprisonment suspended for two years, 250 hours unpaid work within 12 months

12 weeks imprisonment suspended over two years, 250 hours community service and £1,000 costs

Caparo Group

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department holds contracts with any of the companies forming part of the Caparo Group. [302872]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD holds a number of contracts with the Caparo Group, primarily for spare parts for military vehicles.

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Defence Medical Services Manning Statistics from *(a)* April and *(b)* October 2009. [301832]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data relating to manning across the Defence Medical Services (DMS) are assembled twice a year, in April and October, for internal management purposes. I agreed on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 30W, to provide the hon. Member with a breakdown of the October 2009 figures. This work should be completed shortly. A similarly detailed breakdown for last April could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I have decided that in future DMS manning statistics will be published on an annual basis, with effect from 2010, based on data held as at 1 April. Future reports will show the required manning level of the DMS, the additional requirement for a manning and training margin, and the total number of personnel, split between the trained strength and those in training. I will arrange annually for this information to be published on the MOD website and for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many external consultants work for his Department. [303235]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Specific data on the number of consultants employed by the Ministry of Defence are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD expenditure on external assistance, which includes management and other types of consultancy, has been reported to Parliament since 1995-96. Summaries are available in the Library of the House.

Furthermore, information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the MOD in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies are placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Information Officers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [301405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 35 press officers are currently employed by the central MOD media and communications unit and the Regional Defence Press Officer Network. From 1 January to 23 November 2009 they were reimbursed a total of £40,321 for travel and subsistence costs incurred in the conduct of official duty, mainly providing media support to service personnel, officials, chiefs and Ministers.

Costs are principally incurred in terms of vehicle fuel, public transport, car hire, and subsistence (accommodation and meals, including that required while training for deployment overseas) while on duty away from the workplace in the UK and overseas. The majority of the costs (£24,158) were incurred by the eight regional Defence press officers whose work routinely requires them to travel across the length and breadth of the UK.

Currently, there are 110 press officers employed across the Ministry of Defence (as recorded in the Central Office of Information's White Book). 35 work within the MOD's main press office and the remaining 75 (those other civilian and military staff with a clear media and communications role) are principally distributed in support of the armed forces' frontline commands, in overseas headquarters such as in Germany and Cyprus, and in the permanent joint headquarters in support of current operations. Figures for the remaining 75 and for those who have left the Department during this period are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303596]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1364W to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie).

Ex-servicemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings he has had with groups representing armed forces veterans. [302825]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I regularly meet with veterans and groups representing them, most recently on 7 and 8 November 2009 during Remembrance weekend.

I also met with veterans and groups representing them on 25 October 2009 at Westminster Abbey; at the Parliamentary Reception for Veterans and Cadets from Enfield North on 3 March 2009; and with veterans from the Leyland, Lancashire and Warrington constituencies on 17 July 2009.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Veterans, also regularly meets with veterans and groups representing them.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen on service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan sustained (i) injuries to, (ii) partial loss of and (iii) complete loss of their genitalia in each year since 2003. [303977]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 152W.

Joint Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unit forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE); whether it is presently fully equipped; whether the present SLE is deployed; and when the future SLE will take over from the present SLE. [304357]

Bill Rammell: The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), which is not currently deployed. The SLE is fully equipped in accordance with the Joint Rapid Reaction Force Directive and operational mounting instructions. The next SLE will be provided by 1 R IRISH, who will assume this role from 14 December 2009.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unit forms the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group; whether it is presently fully equipped; whether the present group is deployed; and when the future Small Scale Contingent Battle Group will take over from the current group. [304358]

Bill Rammell: 42 Commando, Royal Marines, forms the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group (SSCBG), which is not currently deployed. The SSCBG is equipped according to their readiness state. The SSCBG will, on current plans, be replaced by the Lead Commando Group (from 3 Commando Brigade) and the Air Assault Task Force (from 16 Air Assault Brigade) by 31 December 2011.

Military Aid: Training

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the provision of defence training in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Belarus, *(c)* Burma, *(d)* China, *(e)* Colombia, *(f)* Cuba, *(g)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(h)* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(i)* Iran, *(j)* Iraq, *(k)* Israel, *(l)* Palestine, *(m)* Pakistan, *(n)* Russia, *(o)* Saudi Arabia, *(p)* Somalia, *(q)* Sudan, *(r)* Syria, *(s)* Turkmenistan, *(t)* Uzbekistan, *(u)* Vietnam and *(v)* Libya in each year since 2003; what training activities were provided; and which (i) provider and (ii) recipient organisation participated in each activity. [301953]

Bill Rammell: A key principle of UK Security Cooperation is to use MOD assets in peacetime to prevent conflict abroad, build and maintain trust between states and assist in the development of democratically accountable armed forces; thereby helping to make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and resolution in line with commitment to Public Service Agreement 30 (Conflict Prevention). I am withholding the detailed information requested as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another state.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy helicopters are based in the United Kingdom. [302796]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The total number of Army, Royal Air Force (RAF) and Royal Navy helicopters based in the UK (as at 31 October 2009) is shown in the following table:

Service	*Total number of UK based helicopters*
Army	182
RAF	167
Navy	128

These are used for training as well as search and rescue.

A proportion of the Army, Navy and RAF manned United Kingdom based helicopter fleet are currently deployed outside of the UK on expeditionary operations. Contractor owned fleets are not shown.

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of security at military bases in Northern Ireland. [302823]

Bill Rammell: The security of all military bases within the United Kingdom and overseas is kept under constant review. In Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service has recently been trained on and equipped with long barrelled weapons. Security infrastructure improvements have also been made to all barracks in order to match current threat assessments. I am withholding specific details of the measures taken as their disclosure would be likely to prejudice the security, capability and effectiveness of the armed forces.

Peacekeeping Operations: Females

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department gives to British troops in theatre on their responsibilities to bear down on actions that would increase the risk of violence against women. [303566]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: ISAF forces in Afghanistan continue to work hard, in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces, to afford all Afghan nationals, both men, women and children, a safe and secure environment in which to go about their daily lives.

Afghan cultural awareness training is provided to all UK personnel deploying to Afghanistan which includes cultural differences when interacting with Afghan women. UK personnel operate at all times under rules of engagement which ensure that force is used in accordance with international humanitarian law. This ensures that civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure are minimised.

Rescue Services: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to *(a)* conclude negotiations and *(b)* award contracts for the provision of search and rescue services from 2012 onwards. [303635]

Bill Rammell: The competition to bring together the Search and Rescue helicopter capability currently provided by the Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency into one harmonised service continues. Negotiations will be completed and the contract placed at an appropriate point following DFT and MOD Ministerial approval. This is expected to be in good time to allow the service to commence in 2012.

Supply Estimates

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons £100 million has been transferred from Capital Resource to Direct Resource within RfR 1 in his Department's Winter Supplementary Estimates. [304442]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Departmental Plan assumed a total transfer of £700 million from SUME Capital to Direct Resource. However, in the 2009-10 Main Estimate we deemed that it would be prudent to switch only £600 million until the departmental forecast had sufficiently matured in year. Our 2009-10 Main Estimates Memoranda (paragraph 3.1) pointed out that a further transfer from SUME Capital to Direct Resource might be made in the Supplementary round. The resource transfer has been allocated to the Defence Equipment and Support TLB.

Trident Missiles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which countries the *(a)* arming, fusing and firing system components, *(b)* neutron generators and *(c)* gas reservoirs of Trident nuclear warheads are manufactured; and if he will make a statement. [303890]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As the 2006 white paper (Cm6994) makes clear (paragraph 7-3) certain non-nuclear components of the existing warhead are procured from the US on cost-effectiveness grounds. These non-nuclear components include the arming, fuzing and firing system, neutron initiators and gas transfer system.

Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's recent review of the Enriched Uranium Project at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, for what reasons it was decided not to *(a)* use existing equipment in the A90 facility for Enriched Uranium work and *(b)* install equipment for Enriched Uranium work in the A90 facility. [303524]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Neither of these options are practicable.

The existing equipment in the A90 facility is unsuitable for use in Enriched Uranium handling. Building A90 is not large enough to enable the installation of dedicated equipment for undertaking such work.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Biofuels: Boilers

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on *(a)* the number of biomass boilers installed in schools and *(b)* the reliability and efficacy of such boilers. [303754]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not have a comprehensive record of installed biomass boilers and does not collect or hold information on their performance.

We do however know when they are planned within the Building Schools for the Future and Academies School Building programmes where we provide funding.

The Department is providing additional funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in more than 200 schools in Building Schools for the Future and the Academies programme. This funding is designed to enable newly constructed schools to meet a carbon emissions reduction of 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards in 2002 building regulations. Of the 79 new schools for which we have detailed information on the measures they will be using, 68 are planning to use biomass. Two of these propose to include biomass combined heat and power (CHP) plants, and one proposes a combination of biomass and a ground source heat pump.

Children: Carers

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many households in Norwich North constituency a child under the age of 18 years fulfils the role of a carer for a disabled parent. [301705]

Dawn Primarolo: Precise local and national data on the number of children under the age of 18 years caring for a disabled parent are not collected centrally.

Children: Grants

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the objectives of the Home Access grant for children are; what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum amount disbursed to each student will be; how many students he expects to receive the grant in each year of its operation; what may be purchased with monies from the grant; what the unit cost of each model of laptop from the chosen suppliers is; and whether the home access package will include free broadband. [303865]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Objectives of the home access grant: the home access programme will support those low-income families that need Government intervention to obtain a computer and connectivity as well as benefit parents and learners; it will do this through three targeted approaches:

a. reducing the barriers of cost for families with low incomes

b. maximising the benefits of home access for families who are eligible for a grant

c. increasing the perceived value of home access by parents who are eligible for a grant.

Specifically, the home access grant will provide financial assistance to address the first of these. In the national roll-out of the programme there will be one grant per household.

The average amount *(a)* disbursed to each family through the grant is forecast to be around £500, with the maximum amount *(b)* (excluding assistive technology add-ons) being £528 for the full package. Where a full package is not required, the grants will be for £400 for the device with on board software and support only; or £180 for one year's broadband internet connectivity only.

270,000 families are expected to benefit by March 2011, which equates to over 500,000 students in these eligible households. This breaks down to around 30,000 students in calendar year 2009, including the pilot, and the remaining 470,000 in 2010.

The monies from the grant will enable parents to purchase a choice of equipment using one of six approved suppliers. All packages can include broadband connectivity if this is needed.

Children: Missing Persons

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department is making in the implementation of the European telephone number for missing children; and if he will make a statement. [302837]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

In the UK the establishment of a system of pan-European, harmonised numbers for services of social value, including the 116000 Missing Children helpline, is being overseen by the independent regulator for communications, Ofcom, together with the Government's Contact Council. On 28 October Ofcom confirmed the selection of organisations which would run the first three numbers to be rolled out in the UK, including the appointment of the "Missing People" charity to run the Missing Children line. Missing People is now finalising the arrangements through which it will work with a communications provider to deliver on this helpline and is looking to launch the 116000 number to be run, in parallel with Missing People's existing helpline numbers, in the next financial year.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [illegible]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has no residential properties to report on.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many external consultants work for his Department. [illegible]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In keeping with good procurement practice most consultancy engagements placed by DCSF are based on a requirement for the delivery of outcomes or outputs, and not for the number of people employed. Our management information system reflects this and records the numbers and values of contracts or engagements, rather than individual consultants. We are, therefore, unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [illegible]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department evaluates most contracts on a best value for money basis taking into account whole life costs. On rare occasions we use lowest price.

Information on the amount spent on advertising tenders since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [300929]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has already been very actively involved in working towards savings in these areas.

One project put in place since the announcement is the Total Place initiative. This is exploring ways of securing better services through "whole area" efficiencies. 13 pilot projects are operating linked to particular themes and DCSF officials have been supporting workshop and other activity associated with those projects concerned with services to children and young people. The work is ongoing and final recommendations are expected to inform the 2010 Budget.

Many of the projects announced by the Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) were already built into the CSR07 VfM programme and Department's 2010-11 settlement. For instance, the Better Use of Resources in Schools initiative includes making available a schools financial benchmarking site which enables schools to compare their patterns of expenditure with schools operating in similar circumstances and identify where resources might be reallocated plus free VfM consultancy, tailored to the needs of the school to help them identify where savings can be made on, for example, collaborative procurement.

Additional OEP projects are still in their early stages of development and because of the nature of OEP in changing the structure and strategy of delivery, have longer time frames for delivery; many of the projects in question will come to fruition within the next spending review.

Achievement towards the DCSF £5.14 billion target, including elements relating to OEP, will be reported when data are available over the coming years in both the autumn performance reports and the departmental annual reports each year.

Educational Attainment: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in care sat A-level examinations, excluding equivalents, in the latest year for which figures are available; [301619]

(2) how many pupils who were children in care obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C in the last three years. [301620]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information on A-level examination attempts and achievements for looked-after children.

Figures showing the attempts and achievements of children who have been looked after continuously for 12 months at GCSE level in the last three years can be found in table C of the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After. Twelve months to 30 September 2008 - England". This is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000842/index.shtml

The collection for the year ending 30 September 2009 will be the final year that the OC2 return will be used to collect this data. From next year, a new data source using data matched from the children looked after database (collected via the SSDA903 return) and the national pupil database will be used. A 'Bridging Series' publication outlining the move to this new data source will be published at 9.30 on 25 November at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000894/index.shtml

Faith Schools: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what all-Muslim girls' boarding schools there are in England; and how many pupils attend each one; [301880]

(2) how many *(a)* boys' and *(b)* mixed-sex Muslim boarding schools there are; and how many pupils attend each. [301867]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is as follows:

List by number of pupils all Muslim girls boarding schools in England

Local Authority Name	*School Name*	*Total pupils*	*Total girls*	*Total boys*
Bradford	Jaamiatul Imaam Muhammad Zakaria	496	496	0
Nottingham *	Jamia Al-Hudaa Residential College	296	256	40
Lancashire	Jamea Al Kauthar	410	410	0

List by number of pupils all (a) boys and (b) mixed sex Muslim Boarding Schools in England

Local Authority Name	*School Name*	*Total Pupils*	*Total Girls*	*Total Boys*
(a) All Boys Schools				
Bromley	Darul Uloom London	146	0	146
Bury	Darul Uloom Al Arabiya Al Islamiya	342	0	342
Kirklees	Institute of Islamic Education	307	0	307
Worcestershire	Madinatul Uloom Al Islamiya School	237	0	237
Leicester	Darul Uloom Leicester	107	0	107
Nottinghamshire	Al Karam Secondary School	107	0	107
Bolton	Al Jamiah Al Islamiyyah	221	0	221
Leicestershire	Jamia Islamia (Islamic Studies Centre)	59	0	59
Blackburn with Darwen	Jamiatul-Ilm Wal-Huda UK School	410	0	410
Bradford	Darul Uloom Dawatul Imaan	128	0	128
Sheffield (*)	Jamia Al Hudaa	87	10	77
Walsall	Abu Bakr Boys School	107	0	107
(b) Mixed Sex School				
Blackburn with Darwen	Markazul Uloom	218	87	131

Further Education: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to establish the mechanism for applying for capital project support funding for sixth form colleges through the Learning and Skills Council; and if he will make a statement. [303755]

Mr. Coaker: Pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1403W, I restate that we have made our intention clear to bring sixth-form colleges within the scope of the Building Schools for the Future programme. That remains our position. We will make the details clear as soon as we are able.

My officials are working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Partnerships for Schools to establish the arrangements. They will be up and running to be used for any new expenditure from April 2011. The only projects that the LSC is currently approving are those which colleges fund themselves.

Schools: Biometrics

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools use biometric data collected from their students; and if he will make a statement. [303862]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what measures are in place to encourage schools to use their allocation of devolved capital in the Devolved Financial Management to Schools Scheme; [303443]

(2) how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* schools in Coventry used all their allocation from the Devolved Financial Management to Schools Scheme in academic year 2008-09; [303444]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Devolved Financial Management to Schools Scheme; [303445]

(4) what guidelines have been issued to schools on the use of devolved capital by them under the Devolved Financial Management to Schools Scheme. [303446]

Mr. Coaker: Schools are required to use their allocation of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) within a period of three years and five months, the year of allocation counting as year one. In a few cases, allocations may be accumulated for a longer period for specific projects. Where expenditure does not take place within this period, funds are liable to reclaim.

Records of individual school spend are kept at local authority level. Accordingly, no record is maintained centrally of how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* schools in Coventry have used all their DFC allocation relating to the academic year 2008-09.

No formal assessment has been carried out on the effectiveness of the DFC programme. The funding is intended to enable schools to meet their own priorities.

Guidelines to schools on the use of DFC, including a technical note, have been published on Teachernet. The weblink is

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/capitalinvestment/guidanceindex/devolvedformulacapital

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's aid to Afghanistan in the last 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [304028]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) latest Afghanistan Country Programme Evaluation was published in May 2009 and is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/Afghanistan/

Caparo Group

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Angad Paul in each of the last three years. [302871]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This information is not held centrally by the Department for International Development (DFID). Compiling this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many external consultants work for his Department. [303234]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) enters into contractual arrangements with supplier organisations to deliver consultancy services. The number of individual consultants involved in each contract is not recorded centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303489]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has joint headquarters in Scotland and London. I have travelled to Scotland in an official capacity nine times and to Wales once in the last 12 months.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303602]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The White Book, published by the Central Office of Information (COI) every six months, contains details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) press team.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302723]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I last travelled by taxi on 6 November 2009 during a regional visit.

Developing Countries: Education

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle barriers to education faced by adolescent girls in developing countries, with particular reference to parental expenditure on education for female children and prioritisation of education over early marriage. [303261]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to achieving the education millennium development goals of universal primary education and gender parity in education by 2015 and is spending at least £8.5 billion over the period 2006-15 in support of education in poor and developing countries. DFID regards supporting girls' education as a priority.

DFID's Strategy for Girls' Education published in 2005 highlighted that costs of education was a major barrier for the attendance of girls from the poorest families and we are taking steps to address this barrier. For example, in Yemen, DFID has committed £20 million to a multi-donor Secondary Education and Girls Access Programme (DEDGAP) which includes a number of measures such as stipends to increase the participation of girls in secondary schools. In Nigeria, DFID funds UNICEF to implement the Girls Education Project in selected Northern Nigerian states. This project has already increased girls' enrolment by 15 per cent. and includes advocacy and community mobilisation initiatives which are vital to tackle the wider social and cultural causes of girls' lack of progression through schooling, such as early marriage.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to facilitate pharmaceutical companies assisting in the development of *(a)* HIV/AIDS, *(b)* tuberculosis, *(c)* malaria, *(d)* maternity and *(e)* other health programmes in developing countries. [303537]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is engaged in a number of activities which facilitate pharmaceutical company involvement in a range of health programmes in developing countries. DFID:

supports the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) to which GlaxoSmithKline plc also contribute.

works with the William J. Clinton Foundation which helps manufacturers, mainly in India, to improve production processes of antiretrovirals for treatment of HIV/AIDS and antimalarial combination drugs.

supports public-private partnerships for the development of new vaccines, diagnostics and drugs to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other neglected tropical diseases.

works with Sun Pharmaceuticals in India, through the Concept Foundation, to bring to market a drug combination for safe medical abortion at low cost in developing countries.

has recently launched the Industry Government Forum on Access to Medicines (IGFAM) which aims to facilitate a structured dialogue with industry and other stakeholders as to how industry policies could better promote access to medicines in developing countries.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to combat the spread of HIV-TB co-infection in developing countries. [303541]

Mr. Michael Foster: "Achieving Universal Access", the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world, published in June 2008, acknowledges the need for stronger integration between HIV and TB services. It recognises that investment in well functioning, comprehensive, sustainable and robust health systems and services is the way to address the interaction between HIV and other diseases. The strategy included a commitment to spend £6 billion to strengthen health systems and services including:

"to improve rates of TB diagnosis among people living with AIDS — and HIV diagnosis among people with TB".

In addition the UK Government have made:

a long term commitment of £1 billion (2007 to 2015) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which also works to promote the linkages and interaction between AIDS, TB and malaria.

a 20-year, £790 million commitment, subject to performance, to the international drugs purchase facility UNITAID (2006 to 2026), which is helping to increase access to and affordability of HIV and TB drugs and diagnostics.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is also working with international partners to support countries to reach health worker targets. This will help build the capacity of health systems to manage HIV and TB co-infection issues.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of access to antiretroviral treatments in developing countries. [303986]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since Gleneagles in 2005, the UK has led the push for Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and has committed to spend £6 billion on health systems and services up to 2015. The Department for International Development (DFID) is also committed to working with others to reduce drug prices and increase access to more affordable and sustainable treatment over the long term. This could yield cost efficiency savings of at least £50 million per annum, enough to fund medicines for an additional 1 million people every year.

In 2007 DFID made an unprecedented long term commitment of up to £1 billion to 2015 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria (GFATM), one of the key providers of AIDS drugs. We are also contributing £790 million over 20 years, subject to performance, to UNITAID, the International Drug Purchase Facility. UNITAID helps increase access to treatment by lowering the price of quality drugs and diagnostics, and by increasing the pace at which they are made available.

We continue to lobby our partners to live up to their commitments as well.

Developing Countries: Infant Mortality

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of infants in each developing country who die of preventable causes before their fifth birthday. [303538]

Mr. Michael Foster: The most recent UN estimates of the number of infants who died from preventable causes before reaching the age of five were published in The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) "State of the World's Children" 2009 report. The full report can be accessed via the UNICEF website. This report estimated that 9.2 million children under five died of preventable causes in 2007. The main causes of these deaths were as follows:

Sepsis/pneumonia (26 per cent.)
Tetanus (7 per cent.)
Diarrhoea (3 per cent.)
Preterm (27 per cent.)
Asphyxia (23 per cent.)
Congenital (7 per cent.)
Other (7 per cent.)

However, recent data published online in the Lancet on 10 September 2009 from 'Levels and trends in under-five mortality, 1990 to 2008' estimate that this figure has decreased to 8.8 million in 2008.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what direct funding his Department is providing for national tuberculosis programmes in high-burden countries; and what timetable for the delivery of such funding has been agreed with each recipient country. [303540]

Mr. Michael Foster: Our main focus to combat tuberculosis (TB) remains the delivery of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006 to 2015, which aims to save 14 million lives. The Department for International Development (DFID) contributes to this through a variety of channels including specific bilateral projects, research grants, multilateral and partnerships support, like UNITAID (the international drug purchasing facility) and the Stop TB Partnership, and increasingly through broader health sector plans. The timetable of the delivery of funding differs according to the channels used.

DFID also committed to a number of national TB programmes in high burden countries including South Africa, Nigeria and Zimbabwe where we support the purchase of TB drugs and other commodities. Our support in India is helping treat 6.3 million patients and has saved over 1 million lives since 1997. In China, DFID works in partnership with the World Bank and World Health Organisation (WHO) to provide a £28 million grant supporting China's National TB Control programme in 16 provinces. DFID has an unprecedented commitment of up to £1 billion to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) for 2008 to 2015. The GFATM estimates that it has supported the additional detection and treatment of 5.4 million people with TB.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure effective co-operation between its own aid delivery and that from the Global Fund in countries where both provide aid. [303536]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Fund does not have staff based in the countries it supports and instead relies on local structures, including a Country Co-ordinating Mechanism (CCM). CCMs comprise representatives from the public and private sectors as well as people living with the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria. The Department for International Development's (DFID) staff are members of CCMs in many countries and there is a high degree of co-operation between DFID and the Global Fund. An example of this co-operation is the way DFID contributed to purchase essential drugs pending Global Fund financing. This has avoided stocks of these drugs from running out in these instances.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in other donor countries on meeting commitments to the Global Fund to fight HIV, tuberculosis and malaria; and what steps his Department is taking on this matter. [303542]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State has had no such recent discussions, though UK officials are in regular contact with other donors about Global Fund financing. For example, at the recent Global Fund Executive Board meeting in Ethiopia, UK and several other board members argued strongly in favour of urgent work on several fundamental issues, to respond to the fact that demand from countries for support is likely to outstrip supply of financing for the foreseeable future.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of trends in *(a)* donor funding and *(b)* demand by high-burden countries on the future of the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. [303543]

Mr. Thomas: High quality demand from countries has increased dramatically over the last few years, and is outstripping the supply of funds available. This trend is likely to continue. Interim measures were taken so that all of the proposals received in 2008 and 2009 and recommended by the Independent Technical Review Panel could be supported.

We will continue to work with other donor countries and the Global Fund secretariat to develop new coherent policies that help the fund to address this likely trend in a more systematic way.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303337]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

Maternal Mortality

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of mothers who died in childbirth of preventable causes in each country for which his Department holds data in the last 12 months. [303539]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not collect this information itself, but relies on United Nations (UN) estimates. UN estimates are available on the World Health Organisation's Making Pregnancy Safer website and date from 2005:

http://www.who.int/making_pregnancy_safer/en/

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he plans to *(a)* measure and *(b)* evaluate the effectiveness of money spent by his Department through the London Olympics International Inspiration 2012 Programme. [303382]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The monitoring and evaluation built into International Inspiration Programme draws upon the systems of the in-country implementing partners, British Council and UNICEF and is overseen by the new International Inspiration Foundation.

The Department for International Development (DFID) was also involved in designing the independent external evaluation of phase 1 of the programme covering Brazil, India, Palau, Zambia and Azerbaijan.

Scientists

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and *(b)* his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303967]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have not held any meetings with the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser and have met with the Department's Chief Scientific Adviser once in the last 12 months in the course of my official duties.

The Under-Secretary of State for International Development regularly attends meetings where the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and the Department's Chief Scientific Adviser are also present.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last discussed the Standard Assessment Procedure grid carbon dioxide methodology with officials in his Department; and whether that methodology has been formulated to achieve the planned de-carbonisation of the grid. [303320]

Joan Ruddock: The Department issued a public consultation earlier this year on proposed changes to the standard assessment procedure grid carbon dioxide methodology. We are currently analysing all responses received to the consultation and I will publish the responses to the consultation in due course.

The standard assessment procedure is a carbon compliance tool and is used to calculate carbon emissions from the fabric and technologies in buildings to ensure compliance with building regulations and the code for sustainable homes. As a result the standard assessment procedure is not designed to de-carbonise the grid for which my Department has put in place many policies as set out in the low carbon transition plan earlier this year.

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were made at the IMF/World Bank annual meeting in Istanbul on energy and climate change-related matters. [304466]

Joan Ruddock: There were no specific commitments agreed for which my Department will be responsible. The IMF-World Bank communiqué reiterated support for the World Bank Group's efforts to tackle long-term development challenges, including climate change, in line with its comparative advantage. We welcome the engagement of all international financial institutions in addressing the challenge and opportunity of low carbon climate resilient growth, and encourage them to make their existing investments climate-smart.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303249]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows:

(a) Criminal offences abolished since 1 May 2008

Energy Act 2008

Schedule 6 to the Energy Act 2008 repealed section 107(7) of the Energy Act 2004 (offences relating to the decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations).

(b) Criminal offences created since 1 May 2008

Energy Act 2008

Section 8—offence of carrying out unlicensed activities relating to the importation and storage of combustible gas; Section 9—offences relating to combustible gas licences;

Section 11—offence of failing to comply with a direction issued by the Secretary of State to a combustible gas licence holder in relation to the terms of their licence;

Section 22—offence of carrying out unlicensed activities relating to the storage of carbon dioxide;

Section 23—offences relating to carbon dioxide storage licences;

Section 25—offence of failing to comply with a direction issued by the licensing authority to a carbon dioxide storage licence holder to take steps where the licence holder has failed to comply with the terms of its licence;

Section 47—offence of using or permitting another person to use a site before a decommissioning programme has been submitted and approved;

Section 57—offence of failing to comply with an obligation imposed under an approved funded nuclear decommissioning programme;

Section 59—offence of disclosing information obtained by virtue of a notice issued by the Secretary of State relating to nuclear decommissioning;

Section 60—offence of supplying false information in relation to the decommissioning or clean-up of nuclear sites;

Section 71 (inserts a new 112A into the Energy Act 2004)—offences relating to the failure to provide, and unlawful disclosure of, information relating to decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations;

Section 73 (inserts a new section 38(6) into the Petroleum Act 1998)—offences relating to the unlawful disclosure of information relating to decommissioning of offshore oil and gas installations;

Section 75 (inserts a new section 45A into the Petroleum Act 1998)—offences relating to the provision of information and of financial security in respect of a well drilled in pursuance of a petroleum or gas storage licence;

Section 76 (inserts new section 5B into the Petroleum Act 1998)—offence relating to the disclosure of information supplied to the Secretary of State by HMRC about the transfer of rights granted by a petroleum licence other than for authorised purposes;

Section 79 (inserts a new section 10H into the Pipelines Act 1962)—offence of contravening a pipeline modification notice requiring an increase in the capacity of an upstream petroleum pipeline or the connection of an additional pipeline.

Climate Change Act 2008

Paragraph 5 of Schedule 4—offence of failing to provide information, or providing false or misleading information, required for the purpose of establishing a trading scheme relating to greenhouse gas emissions.

Paragraph 2 of Schedule 5 (inserts new Schedule 2AA into the Environmental Protection Act 1990)—offence of obstructing any person from inspecting or making copies of an account detailing rebates and payments to and charges received under a waste reduction scheme.

Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7 (inserts new section 131C into the Energy Act 2004)—offence relating to the disclosure of information supplied to the Administrator of a renewable transport fuel obligations scheme by HMRC.

Energy Supply

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the average annual spending on *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity by households in each household income decile. [303529]

Mr. Kidney: The latest estimates of average spending on *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity come from the 2008 edition of Family Spending, produced by the Office for National Statistics. This gives average weekly spending levels in 2007, which have been converted into annual figures in the following table.

Average annual expenditure

Income decile	*Gas*	£ *Electricity*
Lowest	234	307
2nd	307	348
3rd	317	359
4th	369	380
5th	390	411
6th	400	447
7th	432	478
8th	458	494
9th	504	530
Highest	593	614
Average	400	437

Fuel Poverty

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people *(a)* in fuel poverty and *(b)* in fuel poverty and in a vulnerable group there were in each region in each year since 2003. [303560]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 2 December 2009]:* Fuel poverty is measured at the household level. The number of households in fuel poverty in each region of England are shown in the following table, including a split for vulnerable households. Regional estimates are available for England only. The most recently available fuel poverty statistics relate to 2007.

Fuel poor households

Government office region	*Total*	*Thousand* *Vulnerable*
North East		
2003	95	76
2004	103	81
2005	126	96
2006	179	152
2007	206	170
Yorkshire and the Humber		
2003	180	140
2004	163	123
2005	169	130
2006	273	215
2007	333	274
North West		
2003	178	132
2004	190	138
2005	268	215
2006	415	343
2007	472	393
East Midlands		
2003	112	102
2004	101	79
2005	145	113
2006	236	185
2007	272	209
West Midlands		
2003	146	108
2004	153	119
2005	197	154
2006	304	238
2007	383	318
South West		
2003	139	109
2004	134	100
2005	181	144
2006	256	200
2007	259	202
East of England		
2003	115	95
2004	141	108
2005	155	131
2006	224	196
2007	253	210
South East		
2003	149	128
2004	133	105
2005	169	125
2006	291	234
2007	333	[illegible]

Fuel poor households

Thousand

Government office region	*Total*	*Vulnerable*
London		
2003	108	85
2004	119	98
2005	120	88
2006	254	183
2007	309	218
England		
2003	1,222	974
2004	1,236	951
2005	1,529	1,194
2006	2,432	1,947
2007	2,819	2,259

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions that will arise from Government operations in 2010. [303381]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Government are committed to achieving a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from its estate of 12.5 per cent., and from administrative road travel by 15 per cent., both by 2010-11. Progress against these targets is reported annually in the Sustainable Development in Government report.

The latest assessment of performance, published in December 2008, forecasts that the percentage reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from Government estate will be approximately 16.9 per cent. (relative to a 1999-2000 baseline), and from administrative road travel the percentage reduction will be approximately 20.9 per cent. (relative to a 2005-06 baseline), by the end of the 2010-11 period.

King's Cliffe

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the Environment Agency on hydrogeological risk assessments related to the proposed contaminated nuclear waste landfill site at King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire; and if he will make a statement. [303985]

Mr. Kidney: DECC has not had discussions with the Environment Agency on hydrogeological risk assessments associated with the proposed disposal of solid radioactive waste at the landfill site near King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire. (Known as East Northants Resource Management Facility.)

Such assessments are matters for the regulators and the Environment Agency has been reviewing the hydrogeological risk assessment submitted by the operator, Augean South Ltd., that accompanies their application for a permit to dispose of low level radioactive waste at the site. They will assess this as part of their statutory duty to ensure that the public and environment are adequately protected from disposal of radioactive waste.

It is anticipated that the technical determination of the application will be concluded in January 2010.

Sellafield

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent evaluation has been made of the adequacy of the emergency evacuation plan for the Sellafield nuclear site; and what use the components in that plan make of the road bridges in West Cumbria which have been *(a)* destroyed and *(b)* damaged. [302238]

Mr. Kidney: Evacuation plans were tested at Sellafield on 24 September 2009 as part of the annual national nuclear exercise. The only area of concern in the Sellafield area is the closure of the A595 bridge at Holmrook which would present some difficulties should an evacuation to the south of the site be necessary. A diversion is in place and Cumbria Constabulary and Sellafield are fully aware of the situation.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors. [302665]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The sale of alcohol to children is an offence under section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003 and carries a maximum fine of £5,000. Section 149 states that a person commits an offence if he buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual aged under 18. This offence is also known as proxy purchase and carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

In order to ensure that police are aware of these offences and the powers they have at their disposal, the Home Office is holding a series of 42 day Alcohol Enforcement Skills Development seminars. The seminars compliment and build on the success of last year's Home Office seminars at which 1,300 licensing professionals received high quality and comprehensive training in the effective use of alcohol-related tools and powers.

The current round of seminars are being held in the Home Office's priority areas and are focused more directly at operational police officers and those that are involved in the legal issues concerning the Licensing Act 2003 and other alcohol-related enforcement legislation.

The Policing and Crime Act will bring in the following measures to deal with under-age alcohol issues:

Change the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children from three strikes within three months, to two strikes within three months.

Amend the police's power to confiscate alcohol from young people in a public place so that they no longer need to prove that the individual 'intended' to consume the alcohol.

Extend the police's powers to issue Directions to Leave so that they can be issued to persons aged 10-15.

Introduce a new offence of persistently possessing alcohol in a public place.

Young people under 18 can be prosecuted for this offence if they are caught with alcohol in a public place three times within a 12-month period.

We have also brought in an enabling power for a Mandatory Code of Practice for Alcohol retailers as part of the Policing and Crime Act. This code aims to crack down on irresponsible promotions and practices that fuel alcohol-related disorder and will include a small number of mandatory licensing conditions (up to nine) which could be applicable to all licensed premises.

To ensure that people aged under 18 are unable to purchase alcohol from legitimate retailers, the Home Office endorses schemes such as Challenge 25. This is a scheme run by retailers themselves, where the basic premise is that all individuals who look as though they are under the age of 25 are asked to prove their age when purchasing any age-restricted products, thereby preventing an offence being committed.

An alcohol confiscation campaign took place in February 2008 following a pilot in October 2007. 23 out of the 227 basic command units (BCUs) took part in the campaign and the result was that over 3,700 litres of alcohol were confiscated from children under 18 who were found drinking alcohol in public places.

A larger campaign involving 165 BCUs took place during February 2008 when 21,000 litres of alcohol (70 per cent. beer) was confiscated in over 5,000 separate seizures from individuals and groups of more than 23,000 young people. Activity in both campaigns focused on school holidays and weekends when young people were most likely to be engaged in this activity.

The Government launched a nationwide crackdown on teenage binge drinking during the summer holidays, with up to £1.4 million of new cash for 69 youth crime priority areas. This is in addition to the £350,000 that each area is receiving this year to tackle antisocial behaviour and youth crime.

The campaign was based on the following three-point plan:

Tough enforcement: confiscating alcohol; using dispersal powers to break up groups of young people getting drunk and causing trouble, and behaviour contracts to hold them to account;

Early intervention and support: giving young people one-to-one support, and youth services working with families to address underlying reasons for young people's behaviour, using parenting contracts and orders to support parents;

Communicating to the local community: making it clear to the public what is being done to tackle drunk and disorderly behaviour by young people.

Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 909W, on aortic aneurysm, (1) what the precise locations are of the early implementation sites of ultrasound screening facilities for aortic aneurysm at *(a)* West Sussex, *(b)* Leicester, *(c)* Gloucester, *(d)* South Manchester, *(e)* South Devon and Exeter and *(f)* South West London; and how many patients have been screened at each such location to date; [302396]

(2) for what reasons the number of hospital sites with abdominal aortic aneurysm ultra sound screening facilities has not been increased since the initial six early implementation sites announced in January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [302399]

(3) what criteria will apply to the next provision and allocation of ultra sound screening facilities for aortic aneurysms; and if he will make a statement. [302400]

Ann Keen: Following the ministerial announcement in January 2008, six early implementation sites commenced screening from April 2009 onwards. There are four more programmes scheduled to start screening early in the new year.

All ultrasound screening is carried out in the community at general practitioner (GP) practices and community hospitals within the early implementation sites geographical location.

Currently the precise location of each ultrasound screening site is not held centrally. An information technology (IT) screening management system is in development and will roll out in the next week. It is expected that during early 2010 when the IT system is fully operational this information will be available.

To date the numbers of men screened are:

Screening programme	*Numbers screened*
West Sussex	1,500
Leicester	6,126
Gloucester	2,500
South Manchester	940
South Devon and Exeter	1,093
South West London	1,179

The NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening programme (NAAASP) is being introduced gradually to make sure it works as effectively as possible. It is important that in the early stages of roll out processes and procedures are assessed and evaluated to ensure that the programme is providing the best possible service.

In order to be considered as a screening site local hospitals with their primary care trusts are required to submit an application to the NAAASP to show that they can deliver a quality service that meets the standards set out by the national programme.

Business cases for the next phase of roll out are due for submission at the end of November and following a review, more programmes will be announced in the new year.

Criteria that have been endorsed by the UK National Screening Committee, the Department's Vascular Board and the NAAASP and developed to ensure that men referred for treatment as a result of screening have the best possible outcomes can be found at:

http://aaa.screening.nhs.uk/Implementation_Guidance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* provision and installation of the technology for ultrasound screening in respect of aortic aneurysms and *(b)* staffing at the level required for optimal use of such technology at each location; and if he will make a statement. [303078]

Ann Keen: A total of £662,180 was allocated to early implementer sites for the purchase of ultrasound equipment.

Information about the cost to the public purse of the staffing levels required for optimal use of ultrasound technology is not held centrally.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects Basildon and Thurrock to be included in the next round of provision of funding for ultrasound screening for aortic aneurysms; and if he will make a statement. [303079]

Ann Keen: It is not expected that Basildon and Thurrock will be included in the next round of provision of funding for ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm screening.

To be considered as a screening site, local hospitals along with their primary care trusts are required to submit an application to the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening programme (NAAASP) to show that they can deliver a quality service that meets the standards set out by the national programme.

To date Basildon and Thurrock have not submitted a bid to the NAAASP for consideration.

Arthritis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* funded and *(b)* supported in other ways on the use of jellyfish mucin in the treatment of arthritis. [302954]

Gillian Merron: Neither the Department nor the Medical Research Council is currently supporting such research.

Blood: Diseases

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve knowledge of sickle cell disease and thalassaemia amongst primary care nurses and GPs. [301065]

Ann Keen: The Department supports the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia in raising awareness of these conditions. I provided a statement for the APPG publication "Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassaemia: A Health Check" earlier in the year and also met with the UK Thalassaemia Society to discuss care of thalassaemia patients.

The responsibility for setting education standards for primary care nurses and general practitioners (GPs), and designing training curricula to meet these standards, rests with the professional standard setters and regulators. For medicine, this is the statutory responsibility of the medical Royal colleges and the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board. For nursing this is the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The Department recognises the importance of improving knowledge of sickle cell disease and thalassaemia among all health care professionals and especially primary care nurses and GPs and will liaise with the relevant organisations to facilitate discussions about this issue.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997. [303094]

Phil Hope: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Until July 2008, when a new business management system was introduced for the Department, such information was not held centrally.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303157]

Phil Hope: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Until July 2008, when a new business management system was introduced for the Department, such information was not held centrally.

However, we have identified two major contracts with Capita Group plc. They are:

1. Public and Patient Experience and Engagement—this is held with Capita Business Services Ltd. The contract started in March 2009 and will run until March 2012. The contract value is £5.25 million over three years (from the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) contract award notice), with the annual value for 2009-10 being forecast at approximately £1.75 million.

2. NHS Choices Health Information Service—this is held with Capita Business Services Ltd. The contract started in November 2008 and ends in November 2011. The contract value is £60 million (from the OJEU contract award notice) with approximately £26.8 million paid to date.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage the provision of Chlamydia screening in settings other than *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* genito-urinary clinics. [302677]

Gillian Merron: To increase Chlamydia testing opportunities, and to maximise existing capacity the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) recommends that primary care trusts (PCTS) aim to achieve most of the tests through community and primary care core services. These comprise general practitioners, sexual and reproductive health, community pharmacies and abortion services. The NCSP has issued specific guidance on maximising testing through these community and primary care core services, and uptake is monitored on a quarterly basis.

PCTs may also extend access by offering screens through a range of other testing venues including remote testing via websites/postal kits, educational establishments and targeted outreach events. The NCSP has issued specific guidance on maximising testing through remote testing.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the rate of uptake of Chlamydia screening in primary care trusts; and if he will make a statement. [302678]

Gillian Merron: The National Chlamydia Screening programme routinely monitors the uptake of screening in primary care trusts and publishes data on the uptake on a quarterly basis.

Data tables for primary care trusts in England are available at:

www.chlamydiascreening.nhs.uk/ps/data/data_tables.html

Chlamydia: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people of each sex between the ages of 15 and 24 years were screened for Chlamydia in the West Midlands in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [301883]

Ann Keen: Information on screening data from genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics for 2009 is not yet available. The most up to date Chlamydia screening information is provided in the following table.

Number of Chlamydia tests performed in the last 12 months by the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP), and within laboratories outside of genitourinary medicine clinics (GUM), among those aged 15-24 years in the West Midlands (1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009).

	Number of female tests	*Number of male tests*	*Total tests including unknown sex*	*Female coverage[1] (percentage)*	*Male coverage[1] (percentage)*	*Total coverage[1] (percentage)*
NCSP tests	60,648	37,081	97,885	17.0	9.9	13.4
Non NCSP laboratory tests outside of GUM	24,185	1,935	26,266	6.8	0.5	3.6
Total tests outside of GUM	84,833	39,016	124,151	23.8	10.4	16.9

[1] 15-24 year old population estimates are based on the mid 2006-ONS population projections for 2009 using the mid 2006 ONS male and female proportions.

Notes:

1. The information from GUM clinics for 2009 is not yet available.
2. NSCP data are presented by primary care trust of residence and are based on vital signs indicator criteria.
3. Tests outside GUM represent the number of tests and not number of people tested. It should be noted that number of tests will be used as a proxy for the number of people tested.
4. Total tests include tests for which sex was recorded as unknown or unspecified.
5. Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive and negative results only. Tests with equivocal, inhibitory and insufficient results have been excluded as most people with these results are retested.

Source:

NCSP core data and non NCSP non GUM aggregate dataset. Data for the period October 2008 to March 2009 are as of 22 May 2009 and data for the period April 2009 to September 2009 are as of 9 November 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [303998]

Phil Hope: The Department owns 10 individual residential properties (nine being in one block). Two are occupied and the remainder have been vacant for more than six months. The residential block of nine properties is currently in the process of being sold.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303132]

Phil Hope: The Department's 'Guide to Buying Services and Goods' states the need to develop value for money principles thus:

> "Buying goods and services in the public sector is not judged on getting goods or services for the lowest possible price, but on value for money. This includes the quality and other relevant areas of the resulting service or goods. It is a judgement based on the best combination of the cost of a product or service, spread over its whole lifetime, and its ability to meet, but not necessarily do better than the needs of the user. They normally achieve this by comparing suppliers' bids, and by generally testing the market."

This principle is included within the 'Public Contracts Regulations 2006', which outlines the need to either set the award criteria at the lowest price, or at the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT). The award criteria using MEAT is linked to the subject matter and may include quality, price, technical merits, aesthetic and functional characteristics.

The Department's procurement policy is to apply this approach to all procurements above £10,000. Procurements at £90,319 or above are subject to the 'Public Contract Regulations 2006' where further information relating to weightings for criteria are applied.

Using the free electronic portal 'Information System for European Public Procurement', the cost of advertising tenders is kept to a minimum.

There may however be occasions when, due to the specific nature of a procurement, the Department uses paid-for advertising. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Until July 2008, when a new business management system was introduced for the Department, such information was not held centrally.

Departmental Ministerial Duties

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what official *(a)* meetings and *(b)* engagements he had on 27 October 2009; at what times and venues each took place; what the purposes of each were; and if he will make a statement. [303528]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended Cabinet on 27 October 2009, and had a variety of meetings and engagements throughout the day.

Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* staff, *(b)* doctors other than general practitioners, *(c)* medical and dental health services staff other than doctors and nurses, *(d)* general practitioners, *(e)* qualified nursing staff other than practice nurses and *(f)* practice nurses worked in Derbyshire primary care trust in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [303875]

Ann Keen: Workforce data for 2009 are currently being collected and will not be available until March 2010. However, data for staff working within Derbyshire County primary care trust (PCT), for 2006, 2007 and 2008 are shown in the following table.

General practitioners (GPs), Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[1] and qualified nursing staff working within Derbyshire County PCT, England at 30 September each year

			Number (headcount)
	2006	2007	2008
All national health service staff	6,989	6,830	7,015
Of which:			
All doctors[1]	552	554	622
GPs	497	510	544
HCHS: medical and dental staff[1]	55	44	78
Total qualified nursing staff	1,595	1,631	1,671
Nursing staff	1,271	1,280	1,320
GP practice nurses	324	351	351

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals and have been excluded to avoid double counting. All medical and dental staff are doctors and have been counted as such.

Source: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Diabetes

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency hospital admissions of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in each primary care trust area were recorded for (i) diabetic ketoacidosis and (ii) hypoglycaemia in each of the last five years, broken down by type of diabetes. [301406]

Ann Keen: Tables which show emergency hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemic coma between 2004-05 and 2008-09 have been placed in the Library. The data are broken down by age, gender, strategic health authority (SHA) and diabetes type.

The data provided are by SHA of residence, because the figures at primary care trust (PCT) level would be too small to give a meaningful indication of the level of emergency admissions and most would be suppressed for patient confidentiality reasons.

In July 2006, the national health service reorganised SHAs and PCTs in England. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years.

Health Professions: Regulation

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards implementation of his Department's White Paper on the regulation of health professionals; and if he will make a statement. [302397]

Ann Keen: We welcome the opportunity to set out the significant progress that the Government have made in implementing the White Paper Trust Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century.

Following the publication of the White Paper in February 2007, the Government introduced the Health and Social Care Act which provides an enabling framework to implement many of the reforms proposed in the White Paper.

Seven working groups were established to develop detailed implementation proposals. All the working groups have reported and good progress is being made in implementing the recommendations made. Reports from the seven working groups are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Humanresourcesandtraining/Modernisingprofessionalregulation/index.htm

A detailed summary of the progress made to date has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Children

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years have been admitted to hospital owing to ingestion of *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* nicotine and tobacco, *(c)* prescription drugs and *(d)* Class (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C drugs in each of the last five years. [303116]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of children aged under-16 admitted to hospital due to ingestion of alcohol, nicotine and tobacco or drugs is given in the following table. It should be noted that there are 17,000 hospital admissions per year of children under-five due to their parents smoking and that the system of diagnostic codes used to classify admission to hospital does not distinguish between whether a drug is prescribed or not or classify drugs according to their class. Additionally, it is important to note that the diagnostic codes do not distinguish between recreational, illicit misuse or medical use of drugs. The diagnostic codes used are as listed.

Count of finished admission episodes[1] where there is a primary diagnosis[2] of 'ingestion of alcohol'[3], 'nicotine and tobacco ingestion'[3] and 'ingestion of drugs'[3] for patients aged 0 to 15 from 2004-05[4] to 2008-09[4]

	Alcohol	Nicotine and tobacco	Drugs
2008-09	3,681	44	13,303
2007-08	4,740	31	14,893
2006-07	5,086	22	15,210
2005-06	5,246	29	15,916
2004-05	4,967	23	14,669

[1] *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

[2] *Diagnosis*

Primary diagnosis data have been used to provide figures on ingestion for nicotine and tobacco and drugs. However, primary and secondary diagnosis data have been used to provide a more accurate figure for alcohol admissions.

Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Secondary diagnosis
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
[3] *ICD-10 Codes*
The ICD-10 codes used to identify hospital admissions due to ingestion of alcohol, or nicotine and tobacco or drug are listed as follows:
Alcohol
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)
Nicotine and tobacco
F17—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco
T65.2—Toxic effect of tobacco and nicotine
Drugs
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
F11—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
F12—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids
F13—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics
F14—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine
F15—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine
F16—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens
F17—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco
F18—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents
F19—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances
F55.X Abuse of non-dependence-producing substances
The following ICD-10 code categories are for poisoning and toxic effects which are both either self-inflicted, or accidental. They include both prescription and non prescription drugs:
T36—Poisoning by systemic antibiotics
T37—Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
T38—Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
T39—Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
T40—Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens)
T41—Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
T42—Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs
T43—Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
T44—Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
T45—Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified
T46—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
T47—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
T48—Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
T49—Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
T50—Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
[4] *Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [303972]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors employed in Derbyshire and England since 1997 are given in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England and the Derbyshire County primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each year

		Headcount
	England	*Of which: Derbyshire County PCT*
1997	12,410	n/a
1998	12,572	n/a
1999	12,800	n/a
2000	12,827	n/a
2001	13,053	n/a
2002	12,774	175
2003	12,984	176
2004	13,303	179
2005	12,818	183
2006	12,034	173
2007	11,569	177
2008	11,190	172

n/a = Not available. We cannot accurately map figures for this organisation prior to 2002.
Note:
Derbyshire County PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Amber Valley PCT, Chesterfield PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Erewash PCT, High Peak and Dales PCT and North Eastern Derbyshire PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations. Derbyshire County PCT covers the Chesterfield area.
Source: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Homeopathy

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanisms NHS patients may choose homeopathic treatments. [303749]

Gillian Merron: Any patient wishing to receive any form of treatment should consult their general practitioner (GP) who would consider whether it was the best course of treatment for the individual's condition. The GP would need to satisfy themselves as to the safety, clinical and cost effectiveness of the treatment and the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners.

Hospice in the Weald: Finance

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the operating cost of the Hospice in the Weald was met from public funds in 2008-09; and if he will take steps to increase it. [303805]

Phil Hope: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide the level of funding they allocate to end of life care services, including local hospices, based on assessments of local needs and priorities.

The Department is making £286 million available over the two years to 2011 to support the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy. Most of this money has been allocated to PCTs. Hospices will be in a prime position to bid for extra funding from the national health service to support the delivery of many of the initiatives recommended in the strategy.

Hospital Beds

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed nights patients who were ready for discharge spent in hospital in each primary care trust in the last 12 months. [302553]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital trusts use the *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2007 cleaning specifications as a basis for contracts with (i) cleaning contractors and (ii) in-house cleaning staff. [303703]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The "National specifications for cleanliness in the NHS", most recently updated and published by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) in April 2007, provide an assurance framework and set out cleaning standards to support trust compliance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008: "Code of practice for the NHS on the prevention of healthcare associated infection and related guidance".

Local trust managers are accountable for the effectiveness of their cleaning arrangements and it is for them to determine how to demonstrate the ways in which those services meet the requirements of the code of practice. Trusts are free to adopt the framework set out in the national specifications or an equivalent.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with *(a)* stab wounds and *(b)* gunshot wounds were admitted to each hospital trust in Mid Bedfordshire constituency in each of the last five years. [302922]

Gillian Merron: Information is not available in the format requested. The number of finished admission episodes for stab wounds and gunshot wounds at Bedford Hospital NHS Trust is shown in the following table.

A count of finished admission episodes[1] where the external cause code[2] was injuries by knife or firearm at Bedford Hospital NHS Trust from 2008-09 to 2004-05[3, 4]

	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	
	Knife	*Gunshot*
2008-09	30	*
2007-08	21	*
2006-07	19	*
2005-06	23	*
2004-05	13	*

[1] *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *External Cause Codes*

The ICD-10 Code used to reflect injury by sharp object or firearm are:

Knife Wounds

W26—Contact with knife, sword or dagger

X78 Intentional self-harm by sharp object

This code identifies self-harm by any sharp object, and therefore includes (but is not limited to) self-harm with a knife.

X99—Assault by sharp object

This code identifies assault by any sharp object and therefore includes but is not limited to assault with a knife.

Gunshot Wounds

W32—Handgun discharge

W33—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge

W34—Discharge from other and unspecified firearms

X72—Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge

X73—Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge

X74—Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge

X93—Assault by handgun discharge

X94—Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge

X95—Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge

Y22—Handgun discharge, undetermined intent

Y23—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent

Y24—Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent

Y28—Contact with sharp object, undetermined intent

Y35.0—Legal intervention involving firearm discharge

Y36.4—War operations involving firearm discharge and other forms of conventional warfare

[3] *Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

[4] Activity in English national health services Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital with knife wounds in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [303104]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department does not hold data at constituency level. Information has been provided for the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA), the Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Redcar and Cleveland PCT. As part of the national health service organisation restructure in July 2006-07, Langbaurgh PCT merged with part of Middlesbrough PCT to form Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

Information has been provided on the number of finished admission episodes for two clinical codes. Code x99 covers assault by a sharp object, and code w26 covers accidental contact knife, sword or dagger. Data for both these clinical codes have been provided for the years 1996-97 to 2008-09. The data that are set out in the following table include all activity in NHS hospitals in England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the NHS in England.

Count of admissions to hospital with knife wounds in the North East SHA, and Middlesbrough PCT and Redcar and Cleveland PCT, 1996-97 to 2008-09

	North East SHA		Middlesbrough PCT		Redcar and Cleveland PCT	
	W26-Contact with knife, sword or dagger	X99-Assault by sharp object	W26-Contact with knife, sword or dagger	X99-Assault by sharp object	W26-Contact with knife, sword or dagger	X99-Assault by sharp object
2008-09	348	393	30	25	26	20
2007-08	363	361	14	27	16	20
2006-07	362	359	26	42	11	18
2005-06	392	376	46	44	16	11
2004-05	429	364	39	53	24	15
2003-04	434	334	50	50	21	12
2002-03	370	332	46	60	13	10
2001-02	397	350	49	52	19	15
2000-01	336	287	51	49	15	8
1999-2000	339	293	47	41	9	10
1998-99	292	266	40	31	18	*
1997-98	258	247	29	36	12	*
1996-97	222	293	24	26	12	19

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. The SHA/PCT of residence contains episodes grouped according to the SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This reflects where the patients lived but does not necessarily reflect where they were treated, as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment. As such, patients treated in the NHS in England but resident outside of England will be included.

3. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

4. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the prescribing of *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant and imatinib-intolerant chronic myeloid leukaemia; and if he will make a statement; [303870]

(2) what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the use of *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant and imatinib-intolerant chronic myeloid leukaemia; and if he will make a statement. [303871]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have had no such discussions. Following the referral of topics to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) work programme, NICE develops its guidance independently based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and in consultation with stakeholders.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of the likely total cost to the NHS of prescribing *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant and imatinib-intolerant chronic myeloid leukaemia; and if he will make a statement. [303872]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made no such assessment. Primary care trust (PCT) allocations take account of expected growth in drugs spending including the impact of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal guidance, but the Department of Health does not routinely estimate the likely total cost of individual drugs.

NICE is currently developing technology appraisal guidance on the use of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia. Following publication of its final guidance. NICE will publish a costing report that estimates the likely cost to the national health service of its recommendations.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidance to primary care trusts on the prescribing of *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant and imatinib-intolerant chronic myeloid leukaemia; and if he will make a statement. [303873]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have issued no such guidance. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing technology appraisal guidance on the use of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia. NICE currently expects to issue final guidance in spring 2010.

Mental Health Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many mental health coordinators there are in England; [304459]

(2) what the cost of the mental health coordinator network was in the last 12 months. [304460]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected.

NHS: Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the public purse of the NHS Comms Link was at the latest date for which figures are available; [302899]

(2) how many registered users of the NHS Comms Link there are; [302900]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the average number of people who use the NHS Comms Link each *(a)* day and *(b)* month; [302901]

(4) how many registered users of the NHS Comms Link *(a)* did not use that system in November 2009 and *(b)* have not used that system in 2009 to date; [302902]

(5) how many administrators of the NHS Comms Link there are. [302903]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are currently 3,658 registered users on NHS Comms Link. The total cost to date for NHS Comms Link is £768,542. The average number of people (unique users, i.e. individuals) who use NHS Comms Link each day is 190. The average number of people (unique users) who use NHS Comms Link each month is 2,055.

The figures for November 2009 are not yet available. The latest data available show that in October 2009, 1,265 users did not log into their account. The latest data available show that in the period January 2009 to October 2009, 1,189 users did not log into their account. There is one administrator post attached to Comms Link.

NHS: Road Salting and Gritting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts have provided funding to local highway authorities to grit local roads in 2009-10; [303583]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of funding provided by primary care trusts to local authorities to grit roads in 2009-10. [303584]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect this information.

Obesity: Children

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made any assessment of the effect of fitness-based video games on the level of *(a)* fitness, *(b)* obesity and *(c)* activity of children. [303034]

Gillian Merron: There are a number of studies under way which are exploring the health benefits of playing fitness-based video games. In addition, as part of our obesity strategy we have established an Expert Working Group to look at the impact of sedentary behaviour, including screen time on children's physical health and activity levels.

Swine Flu

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of new cases of swine influenza diagnosed in each of the last six months. [302815]

Gillian Merron: We do not have estimated cases for all of the months requested but information on the number of cases is available on the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/HPA/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/1240986147093/

During the initial containment phase of the response to swine flu cases of suspected swine flu were confirmed by laboratory test. This information was published daily. Since 2 July, when we moved to the treatment phase of the response, we have been relying on clinical diagnosis instead of laboratory confirmation to identify cases of swine flu. The estimated total number of cases of swine flu is mathematically modelled for England each week using the available surveillance information and is published weekly. These daily and weekly reports are available on the HPA website.

Teenage Pregnancy: Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of mothers in the 16 to 19 years old age group were in education, employment or training at the latest date for which figures are available. [302323]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

I am replying as the Minister responsible for young people's participation in education, employment or training. The proportion of mothers aged between 16 and 19 years in education, employment or training in England increased from 22.2 per cent. in 1997-99 to 32.9 per cent. in 2007-09[1], an increase of almost 50 per cent. Data are averaged over three years because of small sample sizes.

[1] *Source:*

Labour Force Survey sample, 2009

Tuberculosis

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the electronic tuberculosis surveillance systems in operation in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in England differ; and whether he plans to amalgamate the two systems. [302850]

Gillian Merron: The national Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance (ETS) system started in 1999 as a paper-based reporting system. In 2002 following consultation across London, led by the then Regional Health Authority, an electronic web-based system was launched in London (the London tuberculosis Register (LTBR)).

LTBR team and the national ETS team are working together towards having only one system. It is anticipated that in 2010 the national system will replace the LTBR in London.

Tuberculosis: Health Services

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Care Quality Commission assesses tuberculosis services routinely; and if he will instruct the Commission to conduct a specific review of the effectiveness of such services. [302845]

Gillian Merron: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessed the overall quality of national health service organisations for 2008-09. Individual services are not assessed or rated separately as part of this overall assessment, so no routine assessments of tuberculosis services were made. In the future the Department will make available a range of information on NHS performance including the extent to which providers of care meet new registration requirements, and information on performance of certain services.

A consultation on topics for special review in 2010-11 will be published shortly. This document entitled "Assessment of Quality for 2010-11" is expected to be published on the CQC website during the week commencing 21 December and will be made available in the House Library thereafter.

Tuberculosis: Immigrants

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place to screen for tuberculosis migrants who enter the UK other than through Gatwick or Heathrow airports; [302846]

(2) whether the *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick airports health control units screen for tuberculosis 24 hours a day. [302847]

Gillian Merron: At some airports, for example, Manchester and Birmingham, contact details of entrants from countries with high burden of tuberculosis (TB) are collected by the UK Border Agency and sent on to Consultants in Communicable Disease Control in the local Health Protection Units. The details are recorded in a Port 102 form—which notifies the local unit of an arrival but indicates that the entrant has not been examined. At other airports there is no such provision because there are very few flights from high risk countries.

Currently both Heathrow and Gatwick units screen for TB 24 hours a day seven days a week. At Heathrow this takes place in Terminals 3, 4 and 5. At Gatwick, this takes place in the South and North Terminals. All terminals have just received upgrades from old analogue equipment to new digital systems.

Tuberculosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department's evaluation of the TB Find and Treat Project to be complete. [302848]

Gillian Merron: The Department is currently in the process of recruiting an evaluation team for the Tuberculosis Find and Treat Project. The intention is to provide a preliminary assessment of findings in mid-2010, to present to London commissioners in time for the commissioning round for national health service services for 2011-12.

It is anticipated that a finalised report would be available to the Department in early 2011, and available as a peer reviewed journal publication soon after that.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the administration of BCG vaccinations for children and adolescents in London living in low tuberculosis-incidence areas but attending schools in high incidence areas. [302851]

Gillian Merron: The Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination programme against tuberculosis (TB) is targeted to protect individuals at highest risk of exposure to TB. BCG vaccine is offered to infants aged 0 to 12 months living in areas where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater. The vaccine is not offered to school-age children according to the location of their school.

The at risk groups for BCG vaccination are listed in a statement made in 2007 by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/JCVI/DH_094744

The JCVI reaffirmed its advice that the current policy is the most effective use of the vaccine in the United Kingdom.

In April 2009 the London TB Commissioning Board, on behalf of London's primary care trusts, ratified a visioning and commissioning strategy for TB in London with the aims of producing a needs assessment and developing and implementing a world class TB control programme by 2012.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will modify his Department's policy in respect of vaccination against tuberculosis to classify all of inner London as high risk. [303796]

Gillian Merron: The Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination programme against tuberculosis (TB) is targeted to protect individuals at highest risk of exposure to TB. This programme was introduced in 2005 on the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The JCVI reaffirmed its advice in 2007 that this policy is the most effective use of the vaccine in the United Kingdom.

There are no current plans to review the BCG vaccination policy.

TREASURY

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether any contracts between Capita Group plc and his Department have been cancelled before completion since 1997; and whether Capita Group plc has been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 1997; [303092]

(2) on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303159]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details on the total number of tenders submitted by Capita Group plc are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to identify all such tenders.

The following table shows contracts with Capita Group plc held by HM Treasury since 2005, and the amounts paid for the execution of those contracts:

Contract	*Amount paid (£000)*
Recruitment Services	
2005-06	92.6
2006-07	202.5
Recruitment Services	
2007-08	576.0
2008-09	90.0
Training Services	
2008-09	9.9
Recruitment Services	
2009-10	[1]—
Training Services	
2009-10	[1]—

[1] The total amount spent in 2009-10 is not yet available.

The Treasury has no contracts with Capita Group plc that terminate after 2010. No contracts between The Treasury and Capita Group plc have been cancelled before completion and Capita has not been liable for any penalties arising from failings in the administration of contracts since 2005.

Capital Gains Tax

Andrew George: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer if HM Revenue and Customs will undertake a review of the Capital Gains Tax rules as they apply to *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* others selling second homes. [303284]

Mr. Timms: Tax policy changes are considered through the Budget process in the usual way. The Government consider a range of factors when formulating tax policy and keeps all aspects of the tax system under review.

Coinage: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to minimise counterfeiting of the coinage. [303978]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 894W.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303494]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers' officials official duties entail visits throughout the United Kingdom.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external consultants work for his Department. [303240]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the former Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 983W to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria his Department uses in determining the award of contracts; and how much his Department has spent on the advertisement of tenders for Government contracts since 1997. [303137]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury awards contracts on the basis of best value for money. Value for money is defined as the optimum combination of quality and whole life costs. The specific criteria used to determine the best value for money is decided on a contract by contract basis.

Advertised tenders are usually placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) or the Supply2Gov website. Only in exceptional circumstances are tenders advertised elsewhere. The costs of any such advertising are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Public Procurement Directive

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* companies and *(b)* organisations have made representations to his Department on the exclusion of companies found guilty of corruption from public tenders following the implementation of the EU Public Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each written representation received. [303353]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2 December 2009]*: HM Treasury has no record of any such representations having been made to this Department.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research into the effect on the amount people would pay for calls to HM Revenue and Customs helplines with 0845 prefixes if they were changed to numbers with 0300 prefixes. [302368]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* There is no single numbering solution that meets all of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) customers' needs, as call charges to customers are dependent on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

HMRC will continue to keep this area under review as part of its numbering strategy and its work looking at longer term options for its telephone service.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue to accrue to the Exchequer from taxes on gaming machines in the 12 months following the introduction of a gross profits tax. [303747]

Ian Pearson: No such estimate has been made. The Government recently concluded a consultation on the taxation of gaming machines, and the responses received are being analysed by Treasury officials. No decisions will be taken on the future of gaming machines taxation until this analysis is complete.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been collected in amusement machine licence duty from *(a)* bingo halls, *(b)* social clubs and *(c)* public houses in the last 12 months. [303748]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The total annual and monthly receipts from Amusement Machine Licence Duty can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting and Gaming Statistical Bulletin, which is available from the HMRC

website at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Information on receipts broken down by class of trader is not available.

Trust Ports

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the hypothecation of revenue raised from privatisation of trust ports; and if he will make a statement. [303317]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

Under the Ports Act 1991 a trust port privatising must form a successor company and make a transfer scheme for the Secretary of State's approval after a public consultation. A levy is chargeable on the disposal by the port authority of the securities of the successor company. We would consider the allocation of sale proceeds at the time that any voluntary privatisation scheme was submitted to the Department for Transport. We would also consider the desirability of encouraging allocation of equity to managers and employees of the port.

VAT: Business

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to small businesses of amending their *(a)* accounting systems and *(b)* marketing materials for the purposes of implementing the change in the rate of Value Added Tax announced in the Pre-Budget Report. [303309]

Mr. Timms: The Impact Assessment published at 2008 Pre-Budget Report provides an estimate of the compliance costs, and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08 vat_1845.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of those in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit pay income tax. [301788]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits are part of the tax system, and deliver financial support which, overall, ensures that four out of 10 families with children in the UK pay no net tax.

Ignoring the effect of this financial support and considering only the gross amount of tax paid, it is estimated that 1.7 million households, accounting for 81 per cent. of households in receipt of working tax credits, contain at least one adult who is paying income tax. It is also estimated that 4.7 million households, accounting for 75 per cent. of households in receipt of child tax credits, contain at least one adult who is paying income tax.

Welfare Tax Credits: Hampstead and Highgate

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Hampstead and Highgate constituency *(a)* have been and *(b)* are currently in households in receipt of (i) working families tax credit and (ii) child tax credit. [304130]

Mr. Timms: Child and Working Tax Credits were introduced in April 2003 when they replaced Working Families' Tax Credits.

The latest information on the number of children in families benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HM Revenue and Customs snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2009", available:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr09.pdf

Information on the number of children who have ever been in households in receipt of tax credits is available only at disproportionate cost.

CABINET OFFICE

Census

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether the Information Commissioner was consulted on the preparation of the privacy impact assessment for the 2011 Census; [302264]

(2) how many staff in full-time equivalent *(a)* media and public relations, *(b)* marketing and *(c)* communications posts in the (i) Cabinet Office, (ii) Office for National Statistics, (iii) UK Statistics Authority and (iv) Central Office of Information have been assigned to work on the 2011 Census; [302265]

(3) what external *(a)* media and public relations, *(b)* marketing, *(c)* communications and *(d)* advertising firms and consultants have been contracted for the purposes of the 2011 Census; and what the monetary value is of such contracts; [302269]

(4) what the monetary value is of the Office for National Statistics' contract with Elmwood to develop branding for the 2011 census; [302131]

(5) what the *(a)* marketing, *(b)* communications and *(c)* advertising budget is for the 2011 Census; [302566]

(6) what final estimate was made of the *(a)* error and *(b)* non-response rate in respect of the 2001 Census; [302266]

(7) whether the UK Statistics Authority plans to take steps to discourage campaigns which actively promote giving false or frivolous answers to the 2011 Census; [302267]

(8) what discussions the *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(b)* UK Statistics Authority and *(c)* Office of National Statistics has had with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights on the inclusion of questions on sexual orientation in the 2011 Census; [302270]

(9) what representations the *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(b)* Office for National Statistics and *(c)* UK Statistics Authority has received on the classification of Sikhs in the 2001 Census; and if she will make a statement; [302284]

(10) if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* guidance issued in the 2001 Census and *(b)* draft guidance to be issued in respect of the 2011 Census on the application of the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in communications with residents who decline to answer Census questions; [302271]

(11) what recent discussions she has had at EU level on proposals to harmonise census exercises across the EU; [302272]

(12) what targets have been set to measure performance in respect of the undertaking of the 2011 Census; and what value for money criteria have been applied in respect of that census. [302273]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions regarding the 2011 Census. I have grouped together the responses to those questions where there are common themes.

(i) The Office of the Information Commissioner was consulted on the preparation of the privacy impact assessment for the 2011 Census. (302264)

(ii) The numbers of Office for National Statistics staff working full time on the 2011 Census are:

(a) media and public relations 9

(b) marketing and publicity 8

(c) communications 6

There is no one in the UK Statistics Authority working full time on the 2011 Census.(302265)

(iii, iv, v) The total budget for communications with the general public (including the marketing and advertising costs) is anticipated to be £16.8 million for the period 2005-2015. This includes all staff and contractor costs. The main contracts are with:

Bray Leino for advertising (including design and media buying) (£10.1 million);

Four Communications (£800,000) and Linstock (£553,000) for other marketing services (including pubic relations and market research);

Elmwood for delivering the branding for the 2011 Census (£139,000);

Big Mouth for online consultancy (£30,000);

together with a number of other smaller contracts. (302269, 302131, 302566)

(vi) (a) In total, adjustments due to errors in the 2001 Census made after publication of the results in September 2002 amounted to 275,000 people—a difference of 0.5 per cent

(b) The non-response rate in the 2001 Census was estimated to be 6.1 per cent of people. Adjustments for this non-response are included in the published results

A report of the assessment of the quality of the 2001 Census in England and Wales in terms of coverage, non-response and response error was published in 2005 and laid before Parliament. A copy is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/methodology.asp

(302266)

(vii) The UK Statistics Authority, through its Executive body the Office for National Statistics, plans to undertake both national and local publicity to emphasise the value and importance to the public of the results of the 2011 Census and the legal obligation on the public to provide complete and accurate responses. This publicity will include an active response to any such campaigns. (302267)

(viii, ix) Representations to the Cabinet Office and the UK Statistics Authority from stakeholders on the inclusion of particular questions in the 2011 Census have all been directed to the Office for National Statistics.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission, and the former bodies that have since been incorporated into it, have made representations to ONS proposing the inclusion of a question relating to sexual identity through:

verbal representations at one of the several Census Advisory Groups set up by ONS to consult regularly with a wide range of stakeholders;

written submissions in response to the programme of consultation on census topics in 2005;

in a letter to ONS in 2008; and

a bilateral meeting with ONS in June 2008

Neither the Cabinet Office nor the UK Statistics Authority (which was only created in 2008) would have received representations on the classification of Sikhs in the 2001 Census, but ONS took account of representations from a number of organisations in considering the inclusion of Sikh and other tick box categories in the religion question. Such organisations included:

Church of England

Inner Cities Religious Council;

Inter-Faith Network for the United Kingdom

Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland

Board of Deputies of British Jews

Network of Buddhist Organisations

Network of Sikh Organisations UK

UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs

National Council of Hindu Temples, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

The Free Church Federal Council

Baha'i Community

(302270, 302284)

(x) There are no plans to place such guidance in the Library. ONS considers any such guidance to be covered by legal and professional privilege, and that its publication may have a detrimental effect on ONS's public responsibilities and may adversely affect any potential prosecution undertaken in respect of anyone refusing to make a census return. (302271)

(xi) Representatives of the Office for National Statistics have been fully involved in discussions with Eurostat to agree a core set of information requirements across the EU in terms of the definitions used, question wording, and the content of statistical outputs for the 2011 round of European censuses.

No proposals have been made to harmonise the way in which such information should be collected. (302272)

(xii) The provisional targets for the 2011 Census are that the overall response rates should be at least as high as that for the 2001 Census (94 per cent), and that the response rates in the lowest 5 per cent of local authorities in 2001 should be increased to at least 80 per cent. These will be reviewed in the light of the 2009 Census rehearsal and reported in the business case for the Census to be published in spring 2010.

Value for money has been assessed in terms of the financial impact that, in the absence of a census, errors in population statistics would have on the national decision making process that the census information supports, including resource allocation from central government to local authorities and primary care trusts, and the investment decisions made by commercial companies relating to store location and product ranges.

The financial benefits realised by the Census significantly outweigh its costs. This is detailed in the Census business case, which has been reviewed by HM Treasury and the Office for Government Commerce.

A précis of this analysis was made available to the Lords Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments when it considered the Draft Census Order in October, and published in its 29th Report of the 2008-09 Session on 5 November 2009, a copy of which is available at

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldselect/ldmerit/ldmerit.htm

(302273)

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the results of the Census pilot undertaken in 2007; [302274]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the communication plan and strategy for the 2011 Census; [302294]

(3) if she will place in the Library a copy of the business case for the 2011 Census; [302431]

(4) what timetable has been set for the printing of the household forms for the 2011 Census; [302275]

(5) how many staff will be hired for the purposes of undertaking door-to-door communications for the 2011 Census; [302276]

(6) whether contracts let in respect of the 2011 Census include break clauses; [302277]

(7) assessment has been made of the merits of using existing public sector and commercial datasets to replace the *(a)* 2011 Census and *(b)* 2021 Census; [302278]

(8) what estimate was made of the number and proportion of illegal immigrants who completed the 2001 Census; and whether she has made an assessment of the likely effect of the proposed inclusion of new questions on citizenship and intention to remain in the UK on the number of illegal immigrants who complete the 2011 Census; [302279]

(9) what the response rate was *(a)* in absolute numbers, *(b)* as a percentage of postal surveys sent and *(c)* as a percentage of the resident population in each of the four areas in the 2009 Census rehearsal; [302280]

(10) for what reasons each question which was included in the 2001 Census and which is not proposed to be included in the 2011 Census has not been included in that Census; [302282]

(11) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of questions to be included in the 2011 Census which were not contained in the 2001 Census. [302295]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions regarding the 2011 Census. I have grouped together the responses to those questions where there are common themes.

(i,ii,iii) Information on the evaluation of the 2007 Census test is already available from the ONS website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/2007-test---summary-evaluation-report.doc

and is thus available to the Library.

ONS has not published an overarching communications strategy or plan. Instead, many smaller more detailed plans are currently used within the census programme to deal with specific issues.

However, Chapter 2 of the Government's White Paper Helping to shape tomorrow (Cm 7513), published in December 2008, deals with the programme of consultation at paragraphs 2.1-2.12. Paragraphs 4.45-4.53 in Chapter 4 cover local authority and community liaison, and paragraphs 4.67-4.73 summarise the publicity and marketing work being undertaken.

The 2011 Census business case, which has already been scrutinised by HM Treasury and the Office for Government Commerce, is still a working document until final decisions on census operational issues have been made following a full analysis of the Census Rehearsal.

As noted above in answer to Question 302273, the business case is scheduled for publication in the spring 2010 and will be placed in the House of Commons Library at that time. It was made available to the Public Administration Select Committee in June 2009 for its hearing on the Census (but not put into the public domain because of the commercial in confidence information it contains), but a precis was made available to the Lords Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments when it considered the draft Census Order in October and published in its 29th Report of the 2008-09 Session on 5 November.(302274, 302294 and 302431)

(iv) The content and layout of the questionnaires are scheduled to be finalised in mid December 2009 after the Draft Census Order has been approved. Contractors will start the initial printing of the 30 million or more forms in mid-March 2010 and complete this in July. This timetable enables sufficient time for the data capture system, designed on the basis of the printed forms, to be competed and fully tested. (302275)

(v) Some 35,000 temporary field staff will be employed:

to deliver the 5 per cent of census questionnaires that will not be delivered via the postal service;

to visit households to remind then to return their questionnaire and to offer any assistance; and

to collect questionnaires from communal establishments. (302276)

(vi) Yes. Every commercial contract agreed in respect of the 2011 Census programme contains break clauses. This is normal public procurement practice. As the majority of contracts are fixed price, ONS would incur financial penalties if these break clauses were invoked for reasons other than poor contractor performance. (302277)

(vii) In 2003, the Office for National Statistics undertook a strategic review of a number of possible alternative ways of collecting the type of information traditionally provided by a census to meet users' needs. ONS concluded that there were no sufficiently comprehensive or proven alternative sources of such information and that conducting a traditional census in 2011 was the only viable way to collect and provide the range of information required to the level of quality demanded. The findings of the review can be found at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=10784

ONS are currently investigating alternative approaches to collecting such information beyond 2011. (302278)

(viii) No estimate has been made of the number and proportions of illegal immigrants who completed the 2001 Census. The final results were adjusted to take account of the estimated non-response across all population groups.

Similarly, the 2011 Census will make no attempt to identify specifically people who are living here illegally.

ONS has assessed the potential impact of inclusion of the citizenship and intended length of stay questions through a postal test including 10,000 households sampled from areas with high number of migrants, and through focus groups and interviews with recent migrants commissioned from the National Centre for Social Research. No impact on response rates was found The results of the research can be found at

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/recommended-questions---migration.pdf

(302279)

(ix) Participation in the Census rehearsal is voluntary, which suppresses response rate considerably. The operation is not yet complete. As at 25 November 2009 response rates were as shown in the table below:

Areas	*Number of questionnaire returned*	*Percentage of questionnaires returned*
Lancaster	23,127	39
Newham	7,424	21
Anglesey	14,081	42
Combined total	44,632	35
Birmingham	3,570	21

Birmingham was not formally a part of the rehearsal, but questionnaires were distributed to households in Birmingham in order to test different field operation management structures.

The numbers of people included in returned questionnaires will not be known until the questionnaires have been processed, which is due for completion in spring 2010. (302280)

(x) As detailed in the Government's White Paper Helping to shape tomorrow, published in December 2008, the 2001 Census questions on household amenities and professional qualifications are not being included in the 2011 Census.

The previous long-standing census question on whether or not households have exclusive use of either a bath/shower or toilet amenities, or both, is no longer regarded as providing a sufficiently discriminative indicator in the allocation of resources for housing development and regeneration.

Nor will the 2001 question on whether people have specific professional qualifications such as teaching, medical, nursing and/or dental qualifications be included. Consultation indicated that sufficient information to meet users' needs could be collected by the inclusion of a single tick-box for 'professional qualifications' to be recorded in the qualifications question.

In addition, the 2001 questions on lowest floor level of the household's accommodation and the number of people employed at the person's place of work are also not being retained. Consultation with users has indicated that there is less of a requirement for this information compared with other Census topics being proposed. (302282)

(xi) It is not possible to identify the specific cost of including those questions that are new to the Census in 2011. The cost of adding a fourth page of questions per person to the household questionnaire is £24 million. This does not equate to the direct cost of the new questions, as the previous three pages per person questionnaire on which the comparison is based contained a mix of 2001 and new questions, but it is the best available estimate. (302295)

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the minimum duration of stay is that will require an individual to register as an overnight guest and disclose name, sex and date of birth in the 2011 Census; whether overnight guests who are children will be required to register; whether guests at a house party will be required to register; and what personal liability householders will have should overnight guests refuse to disclose personal information; [302427]

(2) whether hotels and bed and breakfast establishments will be required to register their overnight guests and disclose information on name, sex and date of birth for the 2011 Census; [302454]

(3) how many pages long were the *(a)* individual and *(b)* household forms in each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for the (i) 1991 Census and (ii) 2001 Census; and what the estimated page length is for each of those in the 2011 Census based on the (A) Census rehearsal and (B) subsequent planning; [302428]

(4) what the estimated error rate is for the 2011 Census exercise in relation to the questions on the number of bedrooms; and whether the information on the number of bedrooms will be cross-referenced with any other dataset separate from the 2011 Census; [302429]

(5) how much and what proportion of the budget for the 2011 Census had *(a)* been spent, *(b)* been allocated for expenditure and *(b)* not been allocated on the latest date for which figures are available; [302281]

(6) what assessment she has made of the reasons for the difference between the likely cost of the 2011 Census and the cost of the 2001 Census; [302283]

(7) what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* 1991 Census and *(b)* 2001 Census in (i) cash terms and (ii) real terms in 2009 prices. [302489]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions regarding the 2011 Census. I have grouped together the responses to those questions where there are common themes.

i) What the minimum duration of stay is that will require an individual to register as an overnight guest, including name, sex and date of birth in the 2011 Census; whether overnight guests who are children will be required to register; whether guests at a house party will be required to register; and what personal liability householders will have should overnight guests refuse to disclose personal information. 302427

ii) Whether hotels and bed and breakfast establishments will be required to register their overnight guests, including information on name, sex and date of birth, for the 2011 Census. 302454

iii) How many pages long were the (a) individual and (b) household forms in each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for the (i) 1991 Census and (ii) 2001 Census; and what the estimated page length is for each of those in the 2011 Census based on the (A) Census Rehearsal and (B) subsequent planning. 302428

iv) What the estimated error rate is for the 2011 Census exercise in relation to the questions on the number of bedrooms; and whether the information on the number of bedrooms will be cross-referenced with any other dataset separate from the 2011 Census. 302429

v) How much and what proportion of the budget for the 2011 Census had (a) been spent, (b) been allocated for expenditure and (b) not been allocated on the latest date for which figures are available. 302281

vi) What assessment she has made of the reasons for the difference between the cost of the 2011 Census and the cost of the 2001 Census. 302283

vii) What the cost to the public purse was of the (a) 1991 Census and (b) 2001 Census in (i) cash terms and (ii) real terms in 2009 prices. 302489

i,ii)As in all previous censuses (but with the exception of 2001) in addition to recording information for all usual residents at an address on census night, householders are required to record the details of any non-resident persons present on census night, including children and house party guests if they stay overnight. In these previous censuses the same set of information as collected from usual residents has been required from such visitors; for 2011, however, only the limited set of four questions will be asked to reduce the burden.

The minimum duration of stay that will require an individual to be recorded as a visitor is the night of Sunday 27 March 2011.

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation for the 2011 Census, the householder is legally liable to ensure that a complete return is made in respect of every resident and visitor present on census night. However, it would be an offence for anyone present in a household on census night to refuse to provide the relevant information to the householder.

Managers of hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, and guest houses that can only accommodate fewer than ten guests are required to record the visitor information for overnight guests. However, managers of such premises that can accommodate ten or more guests are required only to record the number of any visitors staying overnight. No details of such visitors will be recorded. (302427, 302454)

iii) The household form for the 2011 Census in England and Wales will comprise four pages of questions relating to the household itself, four pages of questions for each household member with space for up to six household members, and an additional page available to record some information about visitors. The form also contains three pages of notes and instructions to assist the form filler, amounting to 32 pages in total.

The form is thus the same length as used in the Census Rehearsal, and is 12 pages more than the 2001 form. While the inclusion of some of additional questions has lengthened the form, a more significant factor in its increased size is its redesign in order to:

accommodate an additional household member so as to reduce the number of continuation forms required for larger households; and

make it easier to complete, specifically by introducing two columns of questions per page instead of the three adopted in 2001 and an additional page of notes and instructions.

The 1991 household form comprised 12 pages but was in a completely different matrix format and printed in a smaller font.

The individual person form for 2011 contains four pages of questions plus three pages of notes and instructions, compared with three and a half pages of questions and half a page of notes in both the 2001 and 1991 Censuses.

The census is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but I understand from the respective Registrars General that the intention is that the 2011 Census questionnaires there should be of a similar length, except that, because of the smaller average household size the household form in Scotland will accommodate only five household members.(302428)

iv) In a postal test including a random sample of 10,000 households in Spring 2009 the question on number of bedrooms was completed by 98.1 per cent of respondents. Testing of the question with individual respondents has not raised any significant quality concerns about their ability or willingness to complete this question accurately.

Data at the individual household record level will not be disclosed or cross-referenced with any other data sources.

Statistics from the question on bedrooms will be used by the Department for Communities and Local Government as a measure of overcrowding to support the measurement of one of its strategic objectives "to improve the supply, environmental performance and quality of housing that is more responsive to the needs of individuals, communities and the economy".

There are two standards previously used to inform whether or not a home is statutorily overcrowded, the 'space standard' and the 'room standard', Government amendments to the 2004 Housing Act provide for the standards to be amended to include a 'bedroom standard'. Its use in helping to measure the number of people living in overcrowded accommodation is set out in the 2007 CLG Action Plan Tackling overcrowding in England, which can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/Overcrowdinqactionplan

(302429)

v,vi,vii) As published in December 2008 in the Government's White Paper Helping to shape tomorrow, the total estimated budget for the 2011 Census is £482 million, of which £450 million has already been agreed, and £32 million is still subject to future spending reviews.

All of the budget that is already agreed has been allocated, with around 20 per cent already spent and a further 50 per cent committed to fixed price contracts.

The cost of the 2011 Census has been analysed in the full business case referred to above. The difference between this and the cost of the 2001 Census is mainly due to:

inflation

growth in population and the number of households

the development of a comprehensive national address register

the development of a questionnaire tracking system

the inclusion of an additional page of questions per person

the development of an online questionnaire completion system

more intensive follow-up in areas with low initial response

The total costs of the 1991 and 2001 Censuses were £117 million and £207 million respectively. To create costs for the 1991 and 2001 Censuses that are comparable to the 2011 Census it is necessary to take into account:

the growth in the population

general inflation

wage inflation for field staff salary costs

Taking these factors into account, equivalent comparators to the 2011 Census cost of £482m are estimated to be £305m for the 1991 Census and £350m for the 2001 Census. (302281, 302283, 302489)

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what safeguards her Department has put in place to ensure that the US administration will not be able to access or monitor Census data stored or processed by Lockheed Martin; [302487]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the 2011 Census adopts the principles of data minimisation recommended by the Thomas and Walport Review of data sharing; [302488]

(3) what access Government Departments and their agencies will have to non-anonymised personal data collected in the 2011 Census; [302485]

(4) with reference to the written ministerial statement of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS, on the draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, what data sources are being used to populate the central address register; and what use will be made of the central register in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales following the 2011 Census; [302490]

(5) with reference to the Explanatory Note to the draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, what data were taken into account in determining that the provisions of the Order would not have an impact on the private or voluntary sector. [302268]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions regarding the 2011 Census. I have grouped together the responses to those questions where there are common themes.

i) What guarantees or agreements her Department has obtained from the US Administration that the US Administration will not be able to access or monitor Census data stored or processed by Lockheed Martin. 302487

ii) What steps the Minister's Department is taking to ensure that the 2011 Census adopts the Principles of Data Minimisation as recommended by the Thomas and Walport Review of data sharing. 302488

iii) What access Government departments and their agencies will have to non-anonymised personal data collected in the 2011 Census. 302485

iv) With reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 21 October 2009, Official Report, columns 55-56WS, on the Draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, what data sources are being used to populate the central address register; and what use will be made of the central register in (a) England and (b) Wales following the 2011 Census. 302490

v) With reference to the Explanatory Note to the Draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, what data were taken into account in determining that the provisions of the order would not have an impact on the private or voluntary sector. (302268)

i) In its response to the Treasury Committee's 2008 report on its enquiry into Counting the population, the Government noted that it did not consider it necessary or appropriate to consult the US authorities on this issue.

ONS has put in place rigorous organisational and contractual arrangements for data capture and processing to ensure that personal Census data will remain secure and confidential. The measures in place include:

all Census data is owned by ONS and both Census employees and contractors working on the Census sign a declaration of confidentiality to guarantee their understanding and compliance with the law;

contractual arrangements with Lockheed Martin UK Ltd ensure that only sub-contractors registered and based in the UK and either UK or EU owned will have access to any personal Census data;

no Lockheed Martin staff (from either the US parent or UK company) will have access to any personal Census data; and

all data will be processed in the UK and remain in the UK.

Further details of the arrangements can be found on the National Statistics website at the following links:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/commitment-to-confidentiality/index.html

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/census-data-security-measures/index.html

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/census-data-confidentiality-and-uk-law/index.html

As has become the practice for previous censuses an independent review of the security and confidentiality arrangements covering the collection and processing of census questionnaires will be carried out before the Census. (302487)

ii, iii) The measures that it has put in place to safeguard and maintain the confidentiality of personal census information (and which are set out in Chapter 6 of the Government's White Paper Helping to shape tomorrow) comply fully with the recommendations of the Data Sharing Review and, at the same time, the relevant legislation to protect such confidentiality.

All personal census information is protected generally from unlawful disclosure by the provision of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, and there is a long-standing policy, reaffirmed in the White Paper to make this available for public access only after 100 years.

No government departments or agencies will have access to non-anonymised census data. (302488 & 302485)

iv) ONS has agreed a national data sharing agreement with Local Government Information House (the National Land and Property Gazetteer supplier), the Royal Mail and Ordnance Survey as well as checking the resulting address list against Valuation Office Agency data.

ONS will cross-match the address lists received from the respective bodies and ask the address list suppliers and local authorities to help to resolve any mismatches and queries.

The data sharing agreement covers uses only for the 2011 Census. However, in developing the matching and verification processes, ONS has been mindful of the need to try to ensure that these processes could be reused in other circumstances. (302490)

v) No specific data were analysed in coming to the decision that the census would not impact on the private or voluntary sector. ONS explained the reasoning for this decision in section 10 of the Explanatory Memorandum, which states:

"The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies of this legislation is considered to be minimal. This is because the purpose of the Census is not to collect business data, and the only impact on business will be asking persons in charge of commercial communal establishments, to make a return in respect of the establishment and of any residents or inmates residing within their premises, who are unable to make a return for themselves."

As no business or voluntary body is required to undertake any duty that ONS believes might prove either detrimental to their work, might significantly delay their normal day-to-day business or place any additional cost upon them, other than asking the manager of any commercial establishment to hand out and collect questionnaires to any usual residents and then complete a short questionnaire in respect of their establishment, ONS believes that the 2011 Census impact on the private or voluntary sector will be minimal.

ONS took advice from the Better Regulations Unit, now part of the Department for Business, Innovations and Skills on this matter. (302268)

Central Office of Information

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what advertiser-funded programming agreements the Central Office of Information has facilitated in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each of the programmes. [302208]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons the Central Office of Information's expenditure increased by £163 million in 2008-09 compared with 2007-08. [302492]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Central Office of Information: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information spent on public relations, marketing and advertising *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding Directgov, consultations and interactive services in 2008-09. [302229]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Copyright

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Government have *(a)* copyright and *(b)* trademark protection over the (i) Building Britain's Future and (ii) Real Help Now (A) phrases and (B) associated logos. [302224]

Ms Butler: Building Britain's Future and Real Help Now have not been registered as trademarks. However, where copyright works are produced by civil servants, or where specific provision is made in the commissioning contract for the copyright in such commissioned works to be assigned or transferred to the Crown, the copyright is owned by the Crown.

Death: Aortic Aneurysm

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in each region were attributed wholly or in part to abdominal aortic aneurysms in the last 10 years. [302398]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of (a) males and (b) females in each age group in each region were attributed wholly or in part to abdominal aortic aneurysms in the last 10 years (302398)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where abdominal aortic aneurysm was the underlying cause of death (Table 1) or mentioned anywhere on the death certificate (Table 2), by sex and age group, for government office regions in England, for the years 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available). Table 2 includes all deaths where abdominal aortic aneurysm was either the underlying cause of death or a contributory factor.

Table 1. Number of deaths where abdominal aortic aneurysm was the underlying cause of death, by sex and age group. Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1,2,3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East	Males	Under 65	15	9	8	7	8	9	6	6	8	8
		65-69	19	22	17	13	21	14	20	17	17	15
		70-74	28	28	37	29	37	29	26	23	34	23
		75-79	41	48	36	39	46	41	35	36	26	47
		80-84	21	27	33	31	32	48	41	50	54	28
		85+	29	29	30	27	35	30	28	26	45	37
	Females	Under 65	3	0	3	3	2	4	0	1	1	2
		65-69	8	8	4	5	5	4	5	2	2	3
		70-74	13	11	10	12	18	16	11	14	8	16
		75-79	22	31	31	18	24	29	23	22	20	22
		80-84	14	21	19	24	24	30	31	26	24	16
		85+	18	21	16	27	32	27	38	33	43	36
North West	Males	Under 65	36	39	33	30	37	26	30	25	25	24
		65-69	46	45	52	47	55	48	49	39	39	46
		70-74	98	96	88	90	84	67	74	63	72	62

Table 1. Number of deaths where abdominal aortic aneurysm was the underlying cause of death, by sex and age group, Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1,2,3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
		75-79	104	107	99	112	110	101	90	89	87	92
		80-84	91	85	92	83	94	115	123	89	89	79
		85+	60	81	85	82	52	74	75	67	98	99
	Females	Under 65	3	8	5	7	2	6	6	5	3	5
		65-69	14	11	10	10	9	8	13	9	11	8
		70-74	31	34	25	26	20	27	21	25	23	19
		75-79	53	60	44	56	55	50	37	37	49	41
		80-84	47	55	35	44	66	61	56	38	63	58
		85+	63	67	78	85	68	71	70	76	83	88
Yorkshire and the Humber	Males	Under 65	20	20	23	17	20	22	18	19	16	17
		65-69	43	36	33	33	25	35	28	29	19	16
		70-74	74	79	54	59	61	54	50	49	51	48
		75-79	73	89	73	70	68	73	71	62	75	66
		80-84	57	58	65	64	80	74	72	66	76	62
		85+	49	61	51	57	55	59	49	74	56	71
	Females	Under 65	5	2	2	0	3	1	2	3	1	2
		65-69	6	6	10	8	8	6	3	7	5	4
		70-74	17	24	27	21	21	18	14	15	14	11
		75-79	52	39	35	36	27	38	34	28	30	29
		80-84	29	28	44	38	62	38	42	56	43	41
		85+	41	43	58	57	58	59	48	74	68	62
East Midlands	Males	Under 65	27	11	24	22	22	11	23	19	18	13
		65-69	50	31	43	31	37	39	29	24	24	23
		70-74	70	59	59	58	54	45	43	44	40	42
		75-79	77	91	72	96	90	62	50	63	65	60
		80-84	42	67	64	80	75	85	70	72	73	64
		85+	55	41	45	48	64	53	49	53	59	53
	Females	Under 65	2	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	3	2
		65-69	6	5	5	5	7	9	4	5	5	2
		70-74	15	15	14	11	14	13	9	10	8	12
		75-79	28	31	34	24	36	30	15	19	21	19
		80-84	21	34	36	23	27	39	34	38	29	33
		85+	34	47	52	49	43	51	55	51	50	45
West Midlands	Males	Under 65	33	30	21	32	25	25	30	18	26	13
		65-69	36	33	30	39	29	38	37	41	27	28
		70-74	65	75	74	69	40	62	59	42	52	40
		75-79	104	86	88	99	92	103	81	73	76	60
		80-84	68	59	63	84	97	80	80	66	61	77
		85+	72	48	66	51	58	78	59	59	74	75
	Females	Under 65	2	3	1	3	2	1	3	3	0	4
		65-69	5	6	5	7	9	6	3	7	7	4
		70-74	22	20	24	20	16	19	21	17	12	12
		75-79	37	30	43	34	34	36	36	30	23	28
		80-84	44	20	32	41	52	36	41	43	32	49
		85+	46	56	50	41	43	61	53	44	57	58

Table 1. Number of deaths where abdominal aortic aneurysm was the underlying cause of death, by sex and age group, Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1,2,3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
East of England	Males	Under 65	34	17	23	38	29	34	23	28	21	12
		65-69	58	57	42	42	38	39	37	33	31	25
		70-74	86	74	67	69	66	66	53	52	52	66
		75-79	115	96	113	101	97	102	100	88	82	82
		80-84	72	97	105	98	118	104	90	84	88	73
		85+	59	65	68	94	83	72	82	101	99	88
	Females	Under 65	1	1	0	4	2	1	1	4	0	1
		65-69	6	8	6	4	5	8	3	6	4	5
		70-74	24	16	20	21	19	12	16	15	11	9
		75-79	34	29	40	42	35	41	26	30	24	20
		80-84	28	44	35	45	49	55	56	55	42	37
		85+	56	53	59	56	73	62	55	62	61	73
London	Males	Under 65	35	24	27	29	25	25	17	12	12	9
		65-69	42	50	35	38	31	25	22	22	21	16
		70-74	80	75	70	48	62	61	28	42	31	36
		75-79	114	106	99	89	78	88	57	48	59	56
		80-84	110	94	67	79	75	77	67	67	53	50
		85+	72	80	75	64	81	72	64	65	78	57
	Females	Under 65	1	2	5	5	4	4	3	3	1	1
		65-69	6	4	10	2	4	5	1	8	5	5
		70-74	29	19	20	11	15	9	12	8	14	12
		75-79	31	35	31	34	34	24	29	23	21	15
		80-84	37	40	39	42	52	33	36	33	36	33
		85+	57	59	60	60	64	60	60	60	58	48
South East	Males	Under 65	37	38	25	37	29	29	30	30	32	16
		65-69	71	61	53	49	51	48	41	50	39	39
		70-74	117	98	116	98	83	78	108	79	84	77
		75-79	174	155	136	141	135	107	123	125	111	113
		80-84	148	135	154	155	135	173	150	120	132	113
		85+	125	146	144	155	130	137	138	152	175	164
	Females	Under 65	1	4	3	2	3	4	4	5	2	2
		65-69	9	11	9	7	5	9	7	10	12	5
		70-74	29	35	25	22	21	10	24	19	23	16
		75-79	58	59	55	49	48	47	43	29	32	40
		80-84	50	52	71	50	66	60	75	68	57	42
		85+	87	103	126	102	112	99	118	118	113	97
South West	Males	Under 65	19	30	25	17	22	25	16	19	21	12
		65-69	36	40	33	30	38	35	27	30	27	24
		70-74	75	67	64	61	67	55	55	51	48	49
		75-79	112	108	91	79	105	76	68	82	80	60
		80-84	77	78	80	95	103	106	89	97	73	81
		85+	70	89	89	85	78	87	93	96	121	83
	Females	Under 65	4	0	2	4	2	0	3	2	1	2
		65-69	8	8	7	6	5	6	5	5	3	7
		70-74	14	16	17	20	17	20	15	13	13	6
		75-79	39	32	20	35	26	35	28	30	17	19

Table 1. Number of deaths where abdominal aortic aneurysm was the underlying cause of death, by sex and age group. Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1, 2, 3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
		80-84	26	43	37	45	55	52	42	32	45	38
		85+	59	67	68	74	63	78	64	74	60	68

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 441.3 and 441.4 for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I71.3 and I71.4 for the years 2001 onwards.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths were abdominal aortic aneurysm was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, by sex and age group. Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1, 2, 3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East	Males	Under 65	15	11	11	7	9	9	7	6	9	10
		65-69	20	24	20	15	22	15	20	18	19	15
		70-74	31	28	40	34	40	32	27	26	39	29
		75-79	44	53	39	44	51	44	42	40	30	50
		80-84	28	28	40	34	39	55	44	59	64	33
		85+	37	32	33	27	39	37	30	30	52	47
	Females	Under 65	4	0	3	3	2	4	0	1	1	2
		65-69	9	8	5	6	7	4	6	3	3	3
		70-74	15	12	11	12	19	18	13	14	10	16
		75-79	27	32	34	20	27	34	26	27	22	24
		80-84	16	22	23	29	27	38	39	32	29	22
		85+	21	23	18	30	35	30	42	39	48	41
North West	Males	Under 65	38	42	34	32	41	28	31	27	27	28
		65-69	50	52	57	51	64	52	56	45	40	50
		70-74	109	102	97	97	95	74	77	75	82	73
		75-79	124	116	120	134	126	118	106	96	98	106
		80-84	100	99	99	95	108	131	135	109	96	100
		85+	68	91	94	99	66	86	87	89	115	117
	Females	Under 65	5	9	5	7	2	7	6	6	3	6
		65-69	18	14	12	10	11	8	14	10	13	10
		70-74	36	36	27	30	24	28	24	29	25	21
		75-79	60	66	50	62	63	58	43	45	54	49
		80-84	49	62	43	58	69	68	66	56	73	64
		85+	76	78	89	97	72	82	80	85	95	105
Yorkshire and the Humber	Males	Under 65	24	25	26	19	23	25	18	20	17	19
		65-69	51	41	38	36	26	30	30	33	24	18
		70-74	83	88	60	65	71	60	59	59	56	61
		75-79	82	96	82	80	84	88	81	78	86	80
		80-84	66	69	75	76	91	89	84	84	93	72
		85+	57	64	61	69	61	64	58	88	70	83
	Females	Under 65	5	3	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	3
		65-69	8	7	12	8	9	7	4	8	7	5
		70-74	20	28	30	25	21	19	15	18	17	13
		75-79	60	43	36	40	31	40	36	35	34	32
		80-84	34	30	48	42	69	44	45	62	54	50
		85+	49	57	61	66	67	63	54	83	75	73
East Midlands	Males	Under 65	29	14	25	23	26	12	23	23	20	15

Table 2. Number of deaths were abdominal aortic aneurysm was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, by sex and age group, Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1,2,3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
		65-69	57	33	49	33	39	44	32	27	27	24
		70-74	80	63	65	64	61	54	47	48	44	45
		75-79	89	101	85	105	98	75	60	72	77	64
		80-84	46	68	71	86	81	93	77	82	90	75
		85+	60	52	54	58	73	56	58	62	66	66
	Females	Under 65	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	0	3	2
		65-69	7	6	6	6	8	10	4	5	5	2
		70-74	15	16	16	13	17	16	9	12	8	12
		75-79	30	36	37	29	40	32	18	20	23	24
		80-84	22	30	41	27	31	44	41	41	35	37
		85+	40	49	55	58	49	55	62	59	56	48
West Midlands	Males	Under 65	36	35	23	35	29	28	34	20	26	15
		65-69	48	40	34	42	30	40	39	45	33	34
		70-74	71	87	83	76	46	66	68	51	60	50
		75-79	113	101	101	111	103	114	93	86	89	72
		80-84	75	80	74	101	110	91	103	81	70	91
		85+	78	53	73	62	70	80	70	79	91	95
	Females	Under 65	3	3	2	4	3	1	3	4	0	4
		65-69	7	6	5	8	9	8	3	9	7	4
		70-74	26	24	26	20	20	19	27	21	13	15
		75-79	41	34	45	35	42	46	41	34	29	32
		80-84	51	23	38	44	57	42	54	48	43	56
		85+	49	58	57	48	51	70	61	53	64	67
East of England	Males	Under 65	37	18	26	41	31	34	26	28	24	15
		65-69	63	60	47	47	40	43	41	36	37	28
		70-74	92	83	75	78	77	72	60	65	64	77
		75-79	128	114	120	109	110	114	109	106	100	97
		80-84	82	111	113	107	137	120	101	97	103	89
		85+	67	76	77	108	97	82	90	112	115	102
	Females	Under 65	1	1	0	5	2	3	2	4	1	1
		65-69	6	11	7	4	6	9	3	8	4	5
		70-74	27	19	22	23	22	14	17	17	11	12
		75-79	38	32	45	46	39	44	35	34	27	24
		80-84	34	48	39	50	53	64	63	58	46	41
		85+	60	58	67	61	85	71	62	68	76	84
London	Males	Under 65	36	29	30	29	26	28	18	15	13	11
		65-69	46	57	35	39	35	27	27	23	25	17
		70-74	91	84	78	53	72	65	32	50	40	41
		75-79	125	114	109	100	89	99	69	56	67	69
		80-84	112	110	81	94	84	94	77	79	60	61
		85+	78	91	89	71	94	82	85	72	90	66
	Females	Under 65	2	2	6	6	4	4	4	4	1	1
		65-69	6	5	13	3	4	6	1	8	5	5
		70-74	30	22	22	13	17	13	12	8	15	12
		75-79	32	41	31	37	37	26	32	27	26	19
		80-84	42	43	46	49	59	36	43	40	41	36
		85+	65	65	65	68	70	72	67	64	69	57

Table 2. Number of deaths were abdominal aortic aneurysm was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, by sex and age group, Government office regions in England, 1999-2008[1,2,3]

Deaths

Government office region	*Sex*	*Age group*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South East	Males	Under 65	39	43	33	41	30	32	32	33	38	18
		65-69	81	64	55	54	57	52	46	57	41	43
		70-74	137	113	130	113	95	91	115	89	94	84
		75-79	192	174	156	164	146	124	135	139	127	126
		80-84	167	153	170	178	161	196	162	140	152	130
		85+	144	156	164	168	149	151	151	165	201	183
	Females	Under 65	4	6	5	2	4	4	5	6	3	2
		65-69	10	11	9	8	5	10	8	10	13	6
		70-74	31	35	30	25	27	11	27	21	24	17
		75-79	66	62	61	58	52	51	50	33	39	43
		80-84	53	56	82	55	71	70	83	76	62	47
		85+	94	111	137	114	128	108	131	131	122	106
South West	Males	Under 65	21	34	26	18	28	26	16	20	21	14
		65-69	42	44	34	31	39	38	32	33	29	25
		70-74	82	78	72	74	74	63	61	59	56	54
		75-79	118	123	101	87	119	85	100	88	91	71
		80-84	85	85	87	102	114	120	100	105	92	99
		85+	85	101	94	97	88	96	109	109	131	95
	Females	Under 65	4	0	2	4	2	0	3	2	1	2
		65-69	8	9	7	8	7	6	5	5	4	7
		70-74	14	18	18	22	20	21	15	15	18	10
		75-79	44	35	21	39	30	37	31	36	18	23
		80-84	26	45	42	48	62	54	50	37	47	40
		85+	64	73	75	77	69	84	71	79	66	73

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 441.3 and 441.4 for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 171.3 and 171.4 for the years 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where abdominal aortic aneurysms were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will request the Information Commissioner to list those information notices issued in respect of delays in supplying information by her Department, specifying the subject matter of the information in each case. [303804]

Ms Butler: The detail of any Information Notices issued by the Information Commissioner is a matter for the Commissioner.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent on communications, marketing, advertising and public relations in relation to the Real Help Now campaign to date. [302230]

Ms Butler: Real Help Now is a cross-Government campaign that brings together information about the range of support available during the economic downturn and makes it easier for people and businesses to access that support.

Cabinet Office has spent £105,704 excluding VAT on communications activities for the campaign.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what expenditure was incurred by her Department on external public relations and marketing companies which are included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [302213]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Office of Public Sector Information has made to Detica in the last 36 months; and for what purposes. [302227]

Ms Butler: The Cabinet Office financial systems show that the following payments have been made to Detica Ltd. in each of the last three financial years:

	£
Financial year	*Expenditure*
2006-07	571,725
2007-08	884,722
2008-09	354,463

The expenditure related to the provision of IT and Telecommunications software, hardware and related consultancy services.

The Office of Public Sector Information is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Justice.

Government Departments: Advertising

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of all expenditure on Government advertising was contained in the Central Office of Information's accounts for 2008-09. [302214]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what Government advertising campaigns have been co-ordinated through the Central Office of Information in the last 12 months. [302231]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Government Departments: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer by the Secretary of State for Transport of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on Cycling England: finance, what Central Office of Information framework agreement governs contracts with public relations consultancies. [302195]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what public relations companies were awarded contracts under the Central Office of Information framework agreement with contract reference 2008/S 105-141121; and what the monetary value was of contracts under the framework agreement. [302228]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 351W, on central Government: public relations, what records *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Central Office of Information hold of (i) payments made and (ii) contracts awarded by departments to firms on the list of accredited public relations companies. [302288]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Central Office of Information (COI) holds on contracts awarded by Government departments to companies which are members of the COI's Framework Agreement on public relations. [302493]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [302740]

Ms Butler: The Cabinet Office has made no payments in respect of vehicle clamping charges and none have been incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 413W, on the Iraq Committee of Inquiry, what posts in the Civil Service each person seconded to the Inquiry from her Department held between January 2001 and December 2003; and for what matters each such secondee had responsibility in each such year. [302990]

Tessa Jowell: Of the 17 civil servants seconded or attached to the Iraq Inquiry Secretariat from Government Departments, 13 were civil servants between 2001 and 2003. Four are members of the senior civil service. Their roles between 2001 and 2003 were:

Margaret Aldred, Secretary to the Inquiry, seconded from the Cabinet Office: Director, Public Services Directorate, HM Treasury and Director General, Resources and Performance, Home Office.

Clare Salters, Deputy Secretary, seconded from the Northern Ireland Office: Head of Human Rights and Equality Unit, NIO; Police Bill Team Leader, Patten Action Team, NIO and Head of Security and Extradition Unit, NIO.

Alicia Forsyth, Deputy Secretary, seconded from the Ministry of Defence: Press Officer, MOD; Private Secretary to the 2nd Permanent Secretary, MOD; Deputy Project Manager, Deepening Smart Acquisition, MOD and Assistant Director, Directorate of Policy Planning, MOD.

Sarah Goom, Legal Adviser, seconded from the Serious Fraud Office: Senior Lawyer, Advisory and International Criminal Division, Customs and Excise Prosecutions Office; Senior Lawyer, Special

Prosecutions Team, Customs and Excise Prosecutions Office and Senior Lawyer, Policy and Advisory Unit, Customs and Excise Prosecutions Office.

The remaining nine secondees who were civil servants between 2001 and 2003 are below senior civil service grade and it would not be normal practice to disclose their names or career history.

Media Monitoring Unit

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost of the Government's Media Monitoring Unit was in 2008-09; and what annual subscription fee was paid to the unit by each subscribing public sector customer in that year. [302225]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether members of the Government's Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) are part of the Government Communication Network; and within which body the MMU is based. [302226]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff are employed by the Government's Media Monitoring Unit. [302286]

Ms Butler: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Contracts

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her Department's policy is on the appointment on 12 month contracts of policy advisers who are not special advisers to assist Ministers; and what guidance the Cabinet Secretary has provided on that matter. [301625]

Tessa Jowell: Some Ministers do have civil servants in or alongside their private offices who may be called 'policy advisers'. These individuals are civil servants and will have been appointed under civil service recruitment principles.

Recruitment into Cabinet Office is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Order-in-Council, and the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles.

Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will estimate the number of pensioner households that will have an oldest member between the ages of 60 and 65 years in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [300690]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The 2006-based demographic household projections by the age of the household representative person are shown in the following table. The household representative is the individual that is taken to represent that household and in the household projections model this is usually the eldest male within the household.

These projections are only available by the age of the household representative person and the age of other members of the household are not known.

Number of households in England by age of household representative person

					Households (thousands)
	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Under 60	14,676	14,834	14,992	15,147	15,300
60-64	1,914	1,918	1,841	1,789	1,769
65-69	1,543	1,611	1,743	1,821	1,860
70-74	1,386	1,379	1,383	1,412	1,452
75 and over	2,960	3,006	3,058	3,117	3,176
Total	22,478	22,748	23,016	23,286	23,558

Source:
2006 based household projections model, CLG.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the affordability of broadband of the proposed levy on fixed telephone lines. [303874]

Mr. Timms: The Government believe that application of the levy will have no significant effect on the affordability of broadband. Ofcom figures show that the average bill has fallen by more than 50p per month in each of the last three years. The average bill is now £7 per month cheaper than in 2005, and £3.81 cheaper per month than 2008.

The Government recognise that those on the lowest incomes might have difficulty paying the fixed line levy and that is why we have confirmed that those on social telephony schemes will be exempt. The social telephony schemes are available to those on income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, employment support allowance (income rated) or the pension credit guarantee.

Business

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what definitions of small and medium-sized enterprises are used by the Government. [300529]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no single definition of a small and medium-sized enterprise. The Companies Act 1985 and its 2006 successor Act defines small and medium firms for the purpose of qualifying for simplified accounting requirements. A company must meet two of the following criteria for two years in a row to qualify:

Small

A turnover of not more than £6.5 million

A balance sheet total of not more than £3.26 million

Not more than 50 employees

Medium

A turnover of not more than £25.9 million

A balance sheet total of not more than £12.9 million

Not more than 250 employees

These definitions are specific to company law. However, BIS use the number of employees when compiling official statistical publications such as the SME statistics for the UK. So for statistical purposes, a small firm would be defined as a firm with between 0 and 49 employees and a medium enterprise would have between 50 and 249 employees.

There is an EU definition of an SME which came into force on 1 January 2005 and is applied, for example, in state aids and for qualification to some EU programmes. The EU definition is based on headcount, turnover, balance sheet and independence criteria. More information on the EU definition can be found at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* Lewes constituency in each of the last five years. [301284]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Estimates of the total number of small[1] businesses from 2003 to 2008 in England and the South East of England are shown in the following table.

[1] Small businesses are defined as private sector enterprises with fewer than 50 employees.

Start of year	*England*[1]	*Government office region for the South East of England*[1]
2003	3,450,675	677,725
2004[2]	n/a	n/a
2005	3,747,150	724,775
2006[2]	n/a	n/a
2007	4,032,400	736,110
2008[3]	4,105,355	764,230

n/a = Not available

[1] Enterprises that have sites in more than one region or country are counted here only in the area where they are registered.

[2] Prior to 2007 regional statistics were produced every two years.

[3] The latest available data. Estimates of the number of businesses at the start of 2009 will be published in autumn 2010.

Source:

'Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Statistics for the UK and Regions'—Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

The number of businesses in England and the South East has increased by 19 per cent. and 13 per cent. respectively between the start of 2003 and 2008.

Estimates of the total number of small businesses in the Lewes Constituency are not available. However, figures for the number of small registered businesses by parliamentary constituency are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933

However, these figures exclude small businesses that are too small to be registered for VAT and/or PAYE.

Business: Credit

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the availability of credit to new businesses; and what steps his Department is taking to increase this availability. [300224]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The October Bank of England report Trends in Lending stated that

> "in contrast to the business sector as a whole, annual growth rates of bank lending to SMEs have remained positive over recent months."

While it is true to say that demand for finance remains subdued and new lending is down comparatively with 2007, the large majority of SMEs do access the finance they require.

BIS SME lending data show that approval rates have changed little in recent months at around two thirds of applications from small firms (sub £1 million turnover), and upwards of 80 per cent. (loans) and 90 per cent. (overdrafts) for medium sized firms (£1 million to £25 million).

The Government continue to encourage the banks to lend to viable SMEs and the experiences of both lenders and borrowers are discussed regularly at the Small Business Finance Forum, which will continue into 2010. The Government also have legally binding lending commitments with Lloyds Banking Group and RBS.

In addition to standard bank lending, under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme £662.64 million of loans have been offered to SMEs and £533.63 million drawn down, as at 19 November 2009.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the level of availability of credit to small businesses. [300395]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The October Bank of England report "Trends in Lending" stated that

> "in contrast to the business sector as a whole, annual growth rates of bank lending to SMEs have remained positive over recent months."

While it is true to say that demand for finance remains subdued and new lending is down comparatively with 2007, the large majority of SMEs do access the finance they require.

BIS SME lending data shows that approval rates have changed little in recent months at around two thirds of applications from small firms (sub £1 million turnover), and upwards of 80 per cent. (loans) and 90 per cent. (overdrafts) for medium sized firms (£1 million to £25 million).

In addition to standard bank lending, under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, £662.64 million of loans have been offered to SMEs and £533.63 million drawn down, as at 19 November.

Business: Government Assistance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much lending has been supported by the small business finance scheme announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report. [300363]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The small business finance scheme announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report was launched in January 2009 as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG).

As of 18 November 2009, 6,543 businesses have been offered loans totalling £662.64 million under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. Of these, 5,374 businesses have drawn loans totalling £533.63 million.

Company Liquidations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of money which is owed to unsecured creditors by firms in liquidation. [300789]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service does not collate a total figure for the amount due to unsecured creditors by firms in liquidation. However, the service's most recent profiling report for companies in compulsory liquidation for the period 2005/06 to 2007/08 shows that the average level of debt owed by companies in compulsory liquidation was as follows:

	Average level of debt owed (£)
2005/06	167,902
2006/07	168,254
2007/08	349,501

The above figures do not include amounts due to creditors in voluntary liquidations. The service is currently collecting information in respect of compulsory liquidations in the year 2008/09.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [303992]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not own any residential properties.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303484]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has visited Scotland twice, Wales once and Northern Ireland once.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303246]

Mr. McFadden: There has been one criminal offence created and no criminal offences abolished by primary legislation sponsored by the Department since 1 May 2008.

A new criminal offence was created under section 49 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. Section 46 of the Act allows regulators to serve a stop notice on a person in relation to a regulatory breach. Under section 49, where a person on whom a notice is served does not comply with it, the person is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to £20,000 (on summary conviction) and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or a fine, or both (on conviction on indictment).

No order has yet been made to give effect to section 49.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure the independence of *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts in providing scientific advice to the Government. [301728]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to taking decisions based on the best possible scientific and engineering advice. The "Guidelines on Scientific Analysis in Policy Making" describe how evidence should be sought and applied to enhance the ability of Government to take better informed decisions. The "Guidelines" make clear that expert advisers and decision makers have clearly separated roles, stating that experts "should not be expected to take into account potential political reaction to their findings before presenting them" (paragraph 22).

The Government's "Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees" clearly states that a committee's advice "should be seen as independent of Government" (paragraph 84), and that Government officials should respect "the committee's independence" (paragraph 52). The independence of committee members is also underlined, with the Code stating that they "are appointed as individuals to fulfil the role of the committee, not as representatives of their particular profession, employer or interest group" (paragraph 32).

Regardless of their area of professional expertise, all civil servants are bound by the "Civil Service Code" which states that they must be impartial and "provide information and advice, including advice to Ministers, on the basis of the evidence, and accurately present the options and facts and take due account of expert and professional advice".

Finally, the "Universal Ethical Code for Scientists", which is relevant to anyone whose work uses scientific methods, including social, natural, medical and veterinary sciences, engineering and mathematics, states that scientists should "not knowingly mislead, or allow others to be misled, about scientific matters and must present and review scientific evidence, theory or interpretation honestly and accurately".

East Midlands Development Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the East Midlands Development Agency has made to Weber Shandwick in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302307]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The East Midlands Development Agency (emda) has contracted with Weber Shandwick on two distinct pieces of work during the period in question:

emda contracted with Weber Shandwick (on behalf of the RDA network) in 2008-09 to provide general support in relation to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee inquiry into RDAs—£14,148.

Weber Shandwick's Mumbai office was also contracted, jointly with Advantage West Midlands, to provide specialist public relations support to help identify Indian businesses seeking to relocate to the UK. The costs allocated to emda amounted to £6,250 in 2007-08 and £16,975 in 2008-09.

I am unable to place the related contracts in the House of Commons Library due to their content being commercially confidential.

Enterprise Management Incentives

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the effect on academic entrepreneurs of the employment test applied as part of the Enterprise Management Incentive scheme; and if he will make a statement. [303300]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Foreign Investment in UK

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many inward investment projects have been established in Norwich North constituency in each year since 1997. [301707]

Ian Lucas: Inward investment data is broken down by postcode area rather than constituency boundaries. Since 1 April 1997 UK Trade and Investment has recorded 17 inward investment projects in the overall Norwich postcode area. Of these, nine were in postcode areas which fall wholly or partially within the current Norwich, North constituency.

Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK-based haulage companies have *(a)* become insolvent, *(b)* ceased trading for other reasons and *(c)* been started up in each of the last 10 years. [302630]

Ian Lucas: The available statistics for *(a)* insolvencies in the "Land Transport" industry are shown under Table 1. The main constituents of the haulage industry fall under this category; which also includes all other types of industrial activity relating to land transport—it is not possible from information collated centrally to separate out haulage in isolation. These statistics only cover England and Wales, as similar figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland are not available centrally at this level of detail.

Responsibility for statistics relating to business start-ups and closures ("births" and "deaths") has moved from the Department for Business to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Tables 2 and 3 record statistics received from the ONS in response to *(b)* and *(c)* above. These represent those figures which are both readily available and most similar in coverage to the figures for insolvencies, but they should not be treated as being entirely consistent and, in particular, the ONS' figures will include some businesses that are not registered companies.

Table 1: Company insolvencies in the land transport industry: England and Wales

	Insolvency type			
	Liquidation[1]	*Administration*	*Receivership*	*Company voluntary arrangement*
2008	377	87	1	14
2007[2] (July to December only)	134	29	0	6
2006 (to September only)	247	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	329	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	303	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	331	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	292	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001[3]	134	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 1: Company insolvencies in the land transport industry; England and Wales

	Insolvency type			
	Liquidation[1]	Administration	Receivership	Company voluntary arrangement
2000[3]	150	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999[3]	152	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = No official statistics centrally available .

[1]. Liquidation includes compulsory liquidation and creditors' voluntary liquidation

[2]. From July 2007 Road Transport is defined within the SIC2003 classification; up to September 2006 it is defined within the Insolvency Trade Classification.

[3]. Only compulsory liquidation figures are available for 1999 to 2001

No statistics by sector are available from Q4 2006 to Q2 2007 inclusive because of the change in industry classification.

Table 2: Business "deaths" in the land transport industry, England and Wales

	Total
2002	4,555
2003	5,025
2004	5,040
2005	4,980
2006	4,500
2007	4,575
2008	4,505

Notes:

1. The population base includes all those businesses which are registered for VAT and/or PAYE, rather than registered companies.
2. It should be noted that the e figures are inclusive of insolvencies; it is not possible to separate these out.

Source:

Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Table 3: Business "births" in the land transport industry, England and Wales

	Total
2002	4,645
2003	5,085
2004	5,535
2005	5,080
2006	4,530
2007	4,870
2008	4,375

Note:

The population base includes all those businesses which are registered for VAT and/or PAYE, rather than registered companies.

Source:

Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Higher Education and Student Finance Independent Review

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings his Department has had with the chair of the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance. [303165]

Mr. Lammy: The review is independent of Government and will provide regular updates to the Secretary of State as well as the right hon. David Willetts.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate degree starts were (i) men and (ii) women in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [302585]

Kevin Brennan: The information is in the following table.

Proportion of students entering higher education courses in UK HEIs who were male and female by level of study 2007/08, all domiciles, all modes of study

		Percentage
	Male	Female
Postgraduate	45	55
Undergraduate	41	59

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HE[illegible]

Higher Education: Agriculture

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to ensure that agricultural science graduate and post-graduate courses are recognised as science disciplines for the purposes of the higher education science funding structure. [302786]

Mr. Lammy: Decisions about the assignment of individual subjects to particular price groups are made by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). They are taken after consultation with the sectors concerned and informed by evidence about the relative costs of teaching and research in different subjects. I understand that, for teaching funding, agriculture and forestry are assigned to the same price group which covers all laboratory based science, engineering and technology. With regard to research funding, agriculture, veterinary and food science are allocated to the highest weighted cost band along with all other clinical and laboratory sciences.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much matched funding each higher education institution has received since 2008. [303344]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions had until 20 November to submit claims for matched funding under the voluntary giving scheme for 2008-09 (the first year of operation). These claims are currently being processed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). This first tranche of payments in the three year initiative are due to be completed by March 2010.

Higher Education: Per Capita Costs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the average cost per undergraduate student of *(a)* management and administrative staff and *(b)* other administrative expenditure by a university. [303306]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not collected in the form requested.

Higher Education: Qualifications

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education colleges received targeted allocations for foundation degrees from the Higher Education Funding Council for England in 2008-09. [303720]

Mr. Lammy: The following FE colleges received this allocation in 2008-09:

Accrington and Rossendale College
Askham Bryan College
Barking College
Bishop Burton College
Blackburn College
Blackpool and The Fylde College
Bradford College
Calderdale College
Carlisle College
Castle College Nottingham
Central Sussex College
Chesterfield College
City College, Birmingham
City College, Coventry
City of Sunderland College
City of Westminster College
Cleveland College of Art and Design
Craven College
Croydon College
Dearne Valley College
Doncaster College
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College
East Riding College
Exeter College
Farnborough College of Technology
Gateshead College
The Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education
Havering College of Further and Higher Education
Hereford College of Arts
Highbury College, Portsmouth
Hopwood Hall College
Hull College
Joseph Priestley College
Kingston College
Kirklees College
Lakes College—West Cumbria
Leeds College of Art and Design
Leeds College of Technology
Leicester College
Lewisham College
Lincoln College
Liverpool Community College
Loughborough College
Macclesfield College
The Manchester College
Moulton College
New College, Durham
New College, Nottingham
New College Stamford
Newcastle College
North East Surrey College of Technology
North East Worcestershire College
North Lindsey College
North West Kent College of Technology
The College of North West London
Northbrook College, Sussex
Northumberland College
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College
Park Lane College
Plymouth College of Art and Design
Riverside College Halton
Rotherham College of Arts and Technology
Ruskin College
The Sheffield College
The Solihull College
South Thames College
South Tyneside College
Southampton City College
Sparsholt College, Hampshire
St. Helens College
Stockport College
Swindon College
Trafford College
Tyne Metropolitan College
Wakefield College
Walsall College
Warwickshire College
West Nottinghamshire College
Westminster Kingsway College
Wigan and Leigh College
Wiltshire College
Wirral Metropolitan College
Worcester College of Technology
York College

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded a university place to start in January 2010. [303169]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not currently available.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Correspondence

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 172W, on the Learning and Skills Council for England: correspondence, if he will request the Learning and Skills Council to send to the *Official Report* for publication copies of letters sent to hon. Members in response to parliamentary questions. [300685]

Kevin Brennan: I can confirm that letters from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) responding to parliamentary questions should always be placed promptly in the House of Commons Library. I can also confirm that we are reviewing our processes to ensure that as a matter of course, copies of such replies are also published in the *Official Report*.

Legislative Reform Orders

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Legislative Reform Orders have come into force since the entry into force of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. [303751]

Ian Lucas: 10 Legislative Reform Orders have come into force since the entry into the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. A further four have been laid before Parliament and are currently under scrutiny.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average period between the laying before the House of a proposal for a Legislative Reform Order and the enactment of the order has been since the entry into force of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. [303752]

Ian Lucas: The average period between laying a Legislative Reform Order before the House and the enactment of the order since the entry into force of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 is approximately 4.5 months.

The average is somewhat skewed by The Legislative Reform (Local Authority Consent Requirements) (England and Wales) Order 2008, which took 15 months. Typically the period is just over three months.

National Investment Corporation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what timetable has been set for the establishment of the National Investment Corporation; [300286]

(2) what funding has been allocated for the National Investment Corporation; and from which budget such funding will be drawn. [300287]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Further details of the National Investment Corporation will be announced by the time of the pre-Budget report.

Redundancy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to protect the rights of employees who are likely to be made redundant; and what plans he has for the future of such mechanisms. [303867]

Mr. McFadden: Employees facing redundancy have a number of important protections, including rights to prior consultation in the case of larger scale redundancies and a right to redundancy pay, subject to length of service. The redundancy selection process must be fair and the redundancies must be genuine. Where an employee feels that this is not the case they can make a complaint to an employment tribunal.

Regional Development Agencies: Recruitment

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on recruitment consultants in respect of the appointment of a chairman for *(a)* Yorkshire Forward and *(b)* One North East. [301343]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The contract with the search consultants covers a number of chair appointments which the Department has been asked to fill and is not broken down for each post. I am therefore unable to provide this information.

Research: Government Assistance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Government funding has been allocated to *(a)* scientific and *(b)* engineering research in each year since 1996-97. [301735]

Mr. Lammy: Science and Research Budget allocations, including funding for engineering research, will have increased from £1.3 billion in 1996-1997 to £3.9 billion in 2010-11. The following table sets out the allocation for each year. It is not possible from the classifications of the Science and Research Budget to provide an overall total for engineering research, however, the table also sets out the allocation for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for each year.

Science and research budget allocations from 1996-97 to 2010-11

£000

	EPSRC	*Total science and research budget*
1996-97	375,590	1,312,030
1997-98	386,373	1,330,328
1998-99	382,982	1,338,326
1999-2000	397,584	1,498,123
2000-01	410,850	1,587,450
2001-02	436,202	1,898,066
2002-03	458,540	2,055,870
2003-04	465,129	2,394,525
2004-05	488,414	2,626,315
2005-06	568,193	3,087,136
2006-07	636,294	3,236,584

Science and research budget allocations from 1996-97 to 2010-11

£000

	EPSRC	*Total science and research budget*
2007-08	721,172	3,454,742
2008-09	795,057	3,554,423
2009-10	814,528	3,715,423
2010-11	843,465	3,970,423

The Allocations of the Science and Research Budget 2008-09 to 2010-11, available in the House Library, provides further details of the purpose and destination of science funding over the current Spending Review Period at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/science/science_funding

Science and Technology Council: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the Science and Technology Council has made to Edelman in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302305]

Mr. Lammy: STFC's spending with Edelman for a variety of support on stakeholder communications has been:

	£
2006-07	40,228
2007-08	19,488
2008-09	59,667

STFC's contracts with commercial organisations are subject to commercial confidentiality and cannot therefore be placed in the Library.

South East England Development Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the South East England Development Agency has made to Edelman in each of the last three years; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302298]

Ms Rosie Winterton: SEEDA has made one payment of £4,761 in May to Edelman, for training of Senior Staff, in preparation to give evidence before the House of Commons South East Regional Committee. There was no contract as SEEDA purchased Edelman's service under its Standard Terms and Conditions, a copy of which can be downloaded from the SEEDA website:

http://www.seeda.co.uk/about-us/procurement-and-tender-opportunities/general-terms-and-conditions

Students: Disabled

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many disabled students have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received disabled students allowance for the academic year 2009-10. [300821]

Mr. Lammy: As at 22 November, 15,371 applications for disabled students' allowances had been received; 95 per cent. of those had passed the initial processing stage. 9,321 were awaiting further information, either from the specialists who assess the type and level of support to be provided to the student, or from the student themselves. 3,334 applications had been approved and the student informed; the remainder were either ineligible or under active consideration by Student Finance England.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of emergency loans made by universities to students as a result of the time taken to process applications for student loans in the last 12 months. [302887]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to estimate the number or monetary value of loans made by universities from the Access to Learning Fund (ALF).

The Fund, which is made available by the Government and stands at £45 million for academic year 2009/10, is administered by the universities which make their own decisions on how best to use their ALF allocation, including whether or not to make short-term loans for whatever reason.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of eligible students took out *(a)* a maintenance loan only, *(b)* a tuition fees loan only and *(c)* loans for maintenance and tuition from the Student Loans Company in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [303304]

Mr. Lammy: In Academic Year 2007-08 it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of eligible students took out a maintenance loan. No estimate is available for tuition fee loans.

Students: Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people from Newcastle-upon-Tyne became full-time undergraduate students in each year from 2002-03 to 2007-08; and how many such people *(a)* were from each socio-economic group and *(b)* had parents from each socio-economic group. [302458]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in the following table.

Figures are provided for full-time undergraduate entrants aged under 21, and 21 and over, as data on socio-economic class is gathered on a different basis for these two distinct age groups. Socio-economic class is derived from information on occupation: for entrants aged under

21 this is based on the occupation of their parent, and for those aged 21 and over it is based on their own occupation.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

Full-time undergraduate entrants from Newcastle-upon-Tyne local authority[1] by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic year 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Socio-economic classification	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	220	20	200	15	200	20	205	25	230	15
Lower managerial and professional occupations	235	55	245	35	265	45	240	45	240	40
Intermediate occupations	100	45	85	30	95	35	110	50	100	35
Small employers and own account workers	65	10	65	0	60	10	70	5	60	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	40	5	40	5	40	5	40	0	30	5
Semi-routine occupations	85	45	75	45	90	35	110	35	115	35
Routine occupations	45	15	30	15	35	15	55	20	45	15
Total known	790	195	740	145	795	165	825	180	815	150
Missing[4]	180	325	190	375	235	365	265	320	215	320

[1] The table does not include entrants where the local authority of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Figures exclude the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing, not classified or 'never worked and long-term unemployed'.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Water Treatment

Derek Twigg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons water treatment cleaners and inhibitors are not included in the Better Regulation Executive's definition of a heating system; and if he will include them within the definition. [302094]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The Better Regulation Executive does not deal with the definition of heating systems, but the Building Regulations (England and Wales) do address the installation of heating systems in buildings. Building Regulations guidance already calls for the application of water treatment cleaners and inhibitors when heating systems are installed in new and existing dwellings. The guidance does not extend to non-domestic buildings because the industry view is that water treatment in non-domestic buildings is already standard practice and regulation is unnecessary.

Women's Enterprise Taskforce

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting held by the Women's Enterprise Task Force since its inception. [300270]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The minutes of the meetings of the Women's Enterprise Task Force will be put on their website at:

www.womensenterprisetaskforce.co.uk

Women's Enterprise Taskforce: Expenditure

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the Women's Enterprise Taskforce in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [300268]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost to the public purse of the Women's Enterprise Task Force for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 was £1,000, £38,000 and £54,000 respectively.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost was of *(a)* air tickets, *(b)* rail tickets, *(c)* taxi fares and *(d)* hotel rooms claimed by each member of the board of the Women's Enterprise Task Force in connection with the work of that taskforce in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [300269]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The costs for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 were: nil, £1,030 and £1,400 respectively. These were met by the South East England Development Agency, who provided secretariat support to the taskforce. There are no plans to break down these costs further.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 18 November 2009

DEFENCE

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual level of spare part availability is for each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force. [249704]

[Official Report, 27 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 310-12W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 27 January 2009. The entry in the table for the Sentry aircraft was incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: The required level of spares for RAF aircraft is included in contractual agreements with industry, or is set by the Front Line Command. The achieved level of available spares is measured as part of these agreements.

The following information for the required and achieved level of spares is provided as at 30 November 2008 unless otherwise stated. Although not used as a performance indicator as part of a contract with industry, the off the shelf satisfaction rate (OTSSR) is also measured for some aircraft types, and is therefore included in the table. The OTSSR is defined as the percentage of demands for spares satisfied direct from MOD stock.

Aircraft	*Requirement*	*Achieved*	*Percentage OTSSR*
Typhoon	80	76	76
Tornado GR4	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured		95
Tornado F3	As above		98
Harrier GR7/GR9/T10/T12	85% of spares to be delivered within the required delivery date	86	96
Nimrod MR2/R1	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured		
Tristar	83	83	94
VC10	80	87	—
Sentry	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured		
Sentinel	75, 95 and 99% of [1]spares to be delivered within the required delivery date	[2]81, 73 and 71	—
Hercules C-130J/K	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured		
C-17	As above		
BAE 146	Spares availability is not measured[3]		
BAE 125	As above		
Sea King 3/3a airframe[4]	Less than 5% operational days lost due to lack of spares	0.1% operational days lost in Oct-Dec 2008	96[5]
Sea King engines[6]	95	93	[5]95
Dominie	Spares availability is not measured		85
HawkT1/T2	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured		86
Tucano	As above		95
Vigilant Glider	Spares availability is not measured		93
Viking Glider	As above		93

[1] 75% figure is for mission non-critical spares, 95% is for mission critical spares and 99% is for consumables.

[2] This was for the period October-December 2008.

[3] These aircraft are military derivatives of civil aircraft. Spare parts are procured on a "just-in-time" basis from the civil market to supplement minimum stock holdings held at the main and forward operating bases.

[4] The Sea King Mk 3/3a is used by the RAF in the Search and Rescue role.

[5] As at 31 October 2008.

[6] These figures include the Sea King Mk4, Mk5 and Mk7 operated by the Royal Navy.

Departmental Budgets

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's science innovation and technology budget is for 2010-11. [284525]

[Official Report, 1 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 1798W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 1 September 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current planning assumption is that the SIT budget will have available approximately £439 million in 2010-11. This compares with £544 million in 2010-11 in a previous planning cycle when calculated on the same basis. Departmental expenditure limits have not yet been set for the years beyond 2010-11.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 23 November 2009

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* suicide bombings and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks were recorded in Afghanistan in each month since February 2008. [211248]

[Official Report, 7 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 1155W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bob Ainsworth:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 7 July 2008.

The correct answer should have been:

Des Browne: Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within Task Force Helmand, which includes the majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan.

Between 1 February and 12 June 2008, there were a total of 176 improvised explosive device attacks recorded in Task Force Helmand, and 21 suicide or suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks. These data are broken down per month as follows:

Month	Total IED attacks (including suicide-borne)	Suicide-borne IED attacks
2008		
February	31	4
March	52	1
April	40	8
May	35	4
June	18	4

These figures do not include IED finds with no detonation or IED false alarms. These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive device attacks there have been on British forces in Afghanistan in each month since January 2008. [279051]

[Official Report, 19 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 510-11W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bob Ainsworth:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 19 June 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within Regional Command (South), which includes the majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan. However, it is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to identify attacks directed only at British forces given the multinational nature of forces operating in Regional Command (South).

Between 1 January 2008 and 31 May 2009 there were a total of 1,421 improvised explosive device attacks in Regional Command (South).

	Improvised explosive device attacks
January 2008	54
February 2008	44
March 2008	55
April 2008	76
May 2008	64
June 2008	76
July 2008	115
August 2008	120
September 2008	106
October 2008	90
November 2008	99
December 2008	104
January 2009	83
February 2009	78
March 2009	85
April 2009	74
May 2009	98

These figures do not include improvised explosive device finds with no detonation or improvised explosive device false alarms. These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis of collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

JUSTICE

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [242456]

[Official Report, 30 March 2009, Vol. 490, c. 990-91W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Michael Wills:

Errors have been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 30 March 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Maria Eagle: The information requested is contained in the following table:

£

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Flat screen	*DVD*	*Stereo*	*Flat screen*	*DVD*	*Stereo*	*Flat screen*	*DVD*	*Stereo*
MOJ HQ[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
HMPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,454	10,537	1,559
HMCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tribunal	0	0	0	[3]10,000	0	0	[3]10,000	0	0
Total	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	36,454	10,537	1,559
Grand total					58,550				

[1] Cost includes supply, installation and commissioning, exclusive of VAT.

[2] Based in Home Office premises.

[3] Fixed annual contractual sum.

The vast majority of the screens installed at 102 Petty France are not operating as televisions but even where for example they run BBC News 24 it is not obtained via the in-built receivers but run over the network via the "media star" installation (Parliamentary TV).

Information for Her Majesty's Courts Service could be obtained only at disproportionate costs. The information requested is not held centrally, requiring contact with each court region.

In addition to the costs stated for the Tribunals Service (TS), a further £35,000 was capitalised on video conference facilities for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel CICAP in 2006-07. This enabled the reduction of costs of staff incurred through travel/time within the TS.

Parole Board

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases for *(a)* oral hearings, *(b)* paper hearings and *(c)* other consideration before the Parole Board were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available. [289472]

[Official Report, 15 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 1013W.]

Letter of correction from Bridget Prentice:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 15 October 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Bridget Prentice: As at 31 July 2009 the number of cases was as follows:

(a) There were 1,625 Indeterminate sentenced cases awaiting three member oral hearings and 126 Determinate cases awaiting single member oral hearings.

(b) There were 324 indeterminate sentenced cases awaiting a paper pre-tariff hearing.

(c) The Parole Board does not give 'other consideration to cases other than the paper and oral hearings referred to above.

Coroners: Armed Forces

A subsequent correction has been published on 14 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 9-14MC.

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for each member of the armed forces killed in action overseas in respect of whom the inquest has not started, when *(a)* the body was repatriated and *(b)* the inquest is expected to begin. [295336]

[Official Report, 26 October 2009, Vol. 498, c. 80-84W.]

Letter of correction from Bridget Prentice:

Errors have been identified in the table provided in the written answer to the right hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) on 26 October 2009. There were five errors identified in the first eight rows of the table in the column headed "Inquest resumption date where this has been set".

The correct answer should have been:

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the dates on which service personnel fatalities were repatriated, and the current position regarding the resumption of inquests which have been opened and adjourned pending Service Inquiries or other investigations. On 27 October my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell) and I will make the latest in the series of quarterly statements to the House about the inquests of service personnel and others who have died overseas.

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Corporal Mike Gilyeat	30 May 2007	8 June 2007	27 October 2009
Private Aaron McClure	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc) December 2009
Private Robert Foster	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc) December 2009
Private John Thrumble	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc) December 2009
Aircraftsman Christopher Bridge	30 August 2007	7 September 2007	7-8 December 2009
Lance Corporal Sarah Holmes	14 October 2007	L/Cpl Holmes died in England	3 November 2009

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Sergeant John Battersby	20 November 2007	26 November 2007	Inquest resumed 17 August 2009, adjourned 21 August 2009 to 7-9 December 2009
Trooper Lee Fitzsimmons	20 November 2007	26 November 2007	Inquest resumed 17 August 2009, adjourned 21 August 2009 to 7-9 December 2009
Sergeant Lee Johnson	8 December 2007	17 December 2007	—
Guardsman Stephen Ferguson	9 December 2007	Gdsmn Ferguson died in England	—
Senior Aircraftsman Graham Livingstone	13 April 20 08	18 April 20 08	10-11 November 2009
Senior Aircraftsman Gary Thompson	13April 20 08	18 April 20 08	10-11 November 2009
Trooper James Thompson	19 May 2008	26 May 2008	5 November 2009
Corporal Sarah Bryant	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Corporal Sean Reeve	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Lance Corporal Richard Larkin	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Trooper Paul Stout	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	
Warrant Officer 2 Michael Williams	24 June 2008	30 June 2008	—
Lance Corporal James Johnson	28 June 2008	7 July 2008	—
Lance Corporal Kenneth Rowe	24 July 2008	28 July 2008	12 November 2009
Signaller Wayne Bland	11 August 2008	18 August 2008	—
Ranger Justin James Cupples	4 September 2008	12 September2008	18 November 2009
Lance Corporal Nicky Mason	13 September.2008	19 September 2008	18 December 2009
Lance Corporal David Wilson	4 December 2008	11 December 2008	—
Corporal Lee Churcher	11 December 2008	17 December 2008	—
Marine Damian Davies	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Sergeant John Manuel	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Corporal Marc Birch	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Lance Corporal Steven "Jamie" Fellows	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Lieutenant Aaron Lewis	15 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Rifleman Stuart Nash	17 December 2008	22 December 2008	—
Corporal Robert Deering	21 December 2008	30 December 2008	—
Serjeant Chris Reed	1 January 2009	7 January 2009	—
Marine Travis Mackin	11 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Captain Tom Sawyer	14 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Corporal Danny Winter	14 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Acting Corporal Richard Robinson	17 January 2009	24 January 2009	—
Corporal Daniel Nield	30 January 2009	3 February 2009	—
Private Ryan Wrathall	12 February 2009	19 February 2009	—
Marine Darren Smith	14 February 2009	24 February	—
Lance Corporal Stephen Kingscott	16 February	24 February	23 October 2009
Marine Michael Laski	25 February	Mne Laski died in England	—
Lance Corporal Christopher Harkett	14.March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Corporal Dean John	15 March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Corporal Graeme Stiff	15 March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Lance Sergeant Tobie Fasfous	28 April 20 09	5 May 2009	—
Corporal Sean Binnie	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	—
Rifleman Adrian Sheldon	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	—
Sergeant Ben Ross	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	27 November 2009
Corporal Kumar Pun	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	27 November 2009
Lieutenant Mark Evison	12 May 2009	Lt Evison died in England	—
Marine Jason Mackie	14 May 2009	22 May 2009	—
Fusilier Petero Suesue	22 May 2009	29 May 2009	2 December 2009
Sapper Jordan Rossi	23 May 2009	29 May 2009	—
Lance Corporal Robert Richards	27 May 2009	L/Cpl Richards died in England	—

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Lance Corporal Kieron Hill	28 May 2009	1 June 2009	—
Lance Corporal Nigel Moffett	30 May 2009	5 June 2009	—
Corporal Steven Boiger	30 May 2009	5 June 2009	—
Rifleman Cyrus Thatcher	2 June 2009	5 June 2009	—
Private Robert McLaren	11 June 2009	16 June 2009	—
Lieutenant Paul Mervis	12 June 2009	16 June 2009	—
Major Sean Birchall	19 June 2009	26 June 2009	—
Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe	1 July 2009	6 July 2009	—
Trooper Joshua Hammond	1 July 2009	6 July 2009	—
Lance Corporal David Dennis	4 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Trooper Robert Laws	4 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Lance Corporal Dane Elson	5 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Captain Ben Babington-Browne	6 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Trooper Christopher Whiteside	7 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Hume	9 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Private John Brackpool	9 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Corporal Lee Scott	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Corporal Jonathan Horne	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman William Aldridge	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman James Backhouse	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Joseph Murphy	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Simpson	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Aminiasi Toge	16 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Corporal Joseph Etchells	19 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Captain Daniel Shepherd	20 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Guardsman Christopher King	22 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Bombardier Craig Hopson	25 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Trooper Philip Lawrence	27 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Wartant Officer 2 Sean Upton	27 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Craftsman Anthony Lombardi	4 August 2009	7 August 2009	—
Corporal Kevin Mulligan	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Lance Corporal Dale Hopkins	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Private Kyle Adams	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Private Jason Williams	8 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Captain Mark Hale	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Wild	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Lance Bombardier Matthew Hatton	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Serjeant Simon Valentine	15 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Private Richard Hunt	15 August 2009	Pte Hunt died in England	—
Lance Corporal James Fullarton	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Fusilier Simon Annis	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Fusilier Louis Carter	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Serjeant Paul McAleese	20 August 2009	27 August 2009	—
Private Johnathon Young	20 August 2009	27 August 2009	—
Fusilier Shaun Bush	25 August 2009	Fus Bush died in England	—
Sergeant Lee Houltram	29 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Sergeant Stuart Millar	31 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Private Kevin Elliott	31 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Lance Corporal Richard Brandon	2 September 2009	10 September 2009	—
Private Gavin Elliott	3 September 2009	10 September 2009	—
Trooper Brett Hall	16 September 2009	Tpr Hall died in England	—
Corporal John Harrison	9 September 2009	17 September 2009	—
Kingsman Jason Dunn-Bridgeman	13 September 2009	17 September 2009	—
Acting Serjeant Stuart McGrath	16 September 2009	24 September 2009	—
Acting Sergeant Michael Lockett MC	21 September 2009	29 September 2009	—

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Private James Prosser	27 September 2009	1 October 2009	—
Acting Corporal Marcin Wojtak	1 October 2009	9 October 2009	—
Guardsman Jamie Janes	5 October 2009	9 October 2009	—
Lance Corporal James Hill	8 October 2009	15 October 2009	—

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 25 November 2009

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type in the armed forces are *(a)* fit to be deployed and *(b)* in service in Afghanistan. [297932]

[Official Report, 10 November 2009, Vol. 499, c. 230W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 10 November 2009. The entries for Challenger 2 and Snatch 2 have been revised.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the information requested on the numbers of vehicles fit for deployment and in service on operations for operational security reasons.

I can however provide figures for armoured vehicles which are fit for purpose. This is defined as vehicles that are capable of being used in whatever capacity they are currently required for. Fit for purpose figures as at 4 November 2009 are shown in the following table, along with total fleet numbers.

Vehicle	*Total fleet number*	*Number fit for purpose*
AS90	145	132
Challenger 2	385	261
CRARRV	81	70
CVR(T)	1,168	928
FV 430 (Mk2 and Bulldog)	1,400	658
Fuchs	11	11
Saxon	147	147
Titan	33	24
Trojan	33	25
Warrior	793	552
Mastiff	271	134
Panther	401	334
Ridgback	118	73
Snatch 2 (including variants)	653	358
Vector	192	87
Viking	116	86

Significant quantities of Mastiff, Vector and Snatch are currently in the process of withdrawal to the UK following the cessation of operations in Iraq.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 26 November 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Energy Performance Certificates and Home Information Packs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* energy performance certificates and *(b)* home information packs that were purchased in the last 12 months. [284264]

[Official Report, 8 July 2009, Vol. 495, c. 902W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. John Healey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 8 July 2009. The figure cited for the number of home information packs produced during the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 was incorrect and should have read 956,000 rather than the published figure of 1.1 million. I have notified the MP of the error.

The correct answer should have been as follows:

John Healey: Information about the number of energy performance certificates (EPCs) lodged in England and Wales in both the domestic and non-domestic sectors is available on the EPC register website at:

www.epcregister.com

There is no central register for the number of home information packs however we estimate that 956,000 home information packs have been produced during the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 2 December 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300197]

[Official Report, 30 November 2009, Vol. 501, c. 374W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Siôn Simon:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 30 November 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Simon: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

The Prime Minister announced on 12 October 2009 that the Government intended to sell the Tote (the Horserace Totalisator Board), which is currently the fifth largest bookmaker in the UK. The sale process is intended to start in summer 2010 and be completed by no later than March 2011.

The net asset value of the Tote is set out in its latest Annual Report and Accounts; however this is an accounting measure and is therefore not an accurate reflection of the market value of the business. The expected revenue from the sale is a commercially sensitive matter.